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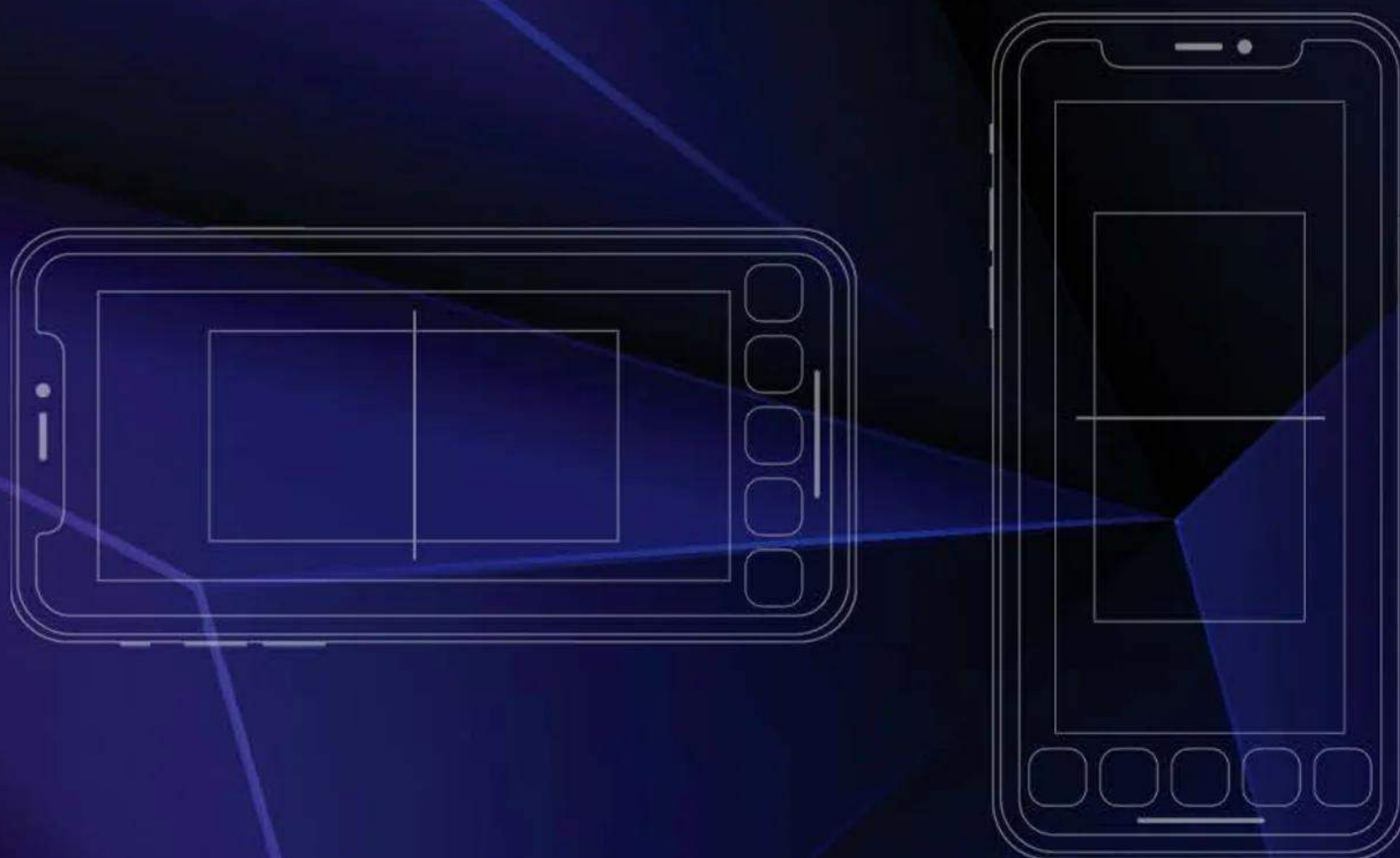
DREAMWORKS ANIMATION AT 30: PAINTING A BRIGHT PATH FORWARD



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THE MOST RELIABLE USED VEHICLES UNDER \$15,000

FOR
SALE





Buying a reliable used car, truck or SUV on a \$15,000 budget is easy if you know what to look for. Experts have done that homework for you so you can start your search with the five recommended models listed below. RepairPal, a network of automotive repair shops, gives each one a high score for overall reliability. The vehicles also have favorable consumer reviews.

As with any used vehicle purchase, the car's history is important. Watch out for reported accidents and other problems, and avoid models showing signs of neglect or abuse. Also, have patience if you can. It's better to wait for the right vehicle than to buy something you might not like and regret your purchase later on.

SMALL CAR: 2014-2018 MAZDA 3

Fun to drive and stylish, the 2014-2018 Mazda 3 is available as a four-door sedan and a five-door hatchback. Several versions of the car are available, ranging from econocar basic to unexpectedly upscale. The Mazda 3 offers a choice between two four-cylinder engines and a manual or an automatic transmission. All-wheel drive is not available, but you can find it in the next-generation Mazda 3 that debuted in 2019. High-mileage examples of that version of the car sometimes squeak in under the \$15,000 mark.

Look for: The available 2.5-liter engine is more powerful and worth getting. Look for a Mazda 3 with the 2.5 designation, which is usually a Touring or Grand Touring trim level. Mazda improved the car's handling and refreshed its interior for the 2017 model year.









SMALL SUV: 2012-2016 HONDA CR-V

Few small SUVs are as outright practical as the roomy Honda CR-V. It has comfortable seating for five and plenty of cargo space behind the back seat. The best word to describe the CR-V is "easy." It's easy to drive, park and see out of. Only one engine is offered, but it gets good fuel economy for a small SUV. All-wheel drive is optional. It's a great pick for an all-around SUV that also gets high marks for reliability.

Look for: Honda redesigned the CR-V in 2012. Updates in 2015 brought appealing design revisions, a more efficient engine, more modern infotainment technology, and additional driver assist features. The 2016 CR-V Special Edition is a particularly good value.









MIDSIZE CAR: 2013-2017 HONDA ACCORD

For decades, the Honda Accord has been a benchmark car, and the 2013-2017 coupes and sedans are no different. You can get this Accord with a four-cylinder or a V6 engine, and a manual or an automatic transmission. Both engines provide sporty acceleration and pleasing fuel economy. Other Accord highlights include a roomy interior, responsive handling and easy-to-use controls.

Look for: An Accord Hybrid became available for the 2014 model year. It might be worth seeking out if high mpg is a priority for you; otherwise, stick with the standard Accord. In 2016, a new touchscreen infotainment system arrived with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto. These smartphone integration systems make it easy to use many of your phone's features and apps through the touchscreen.







MIDSIZE SUV: 2014-2019 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER

The Highlander is the best vehicle on this list for big families. This SUV has three rows of seats, plenty of cargo room, and a choice of four-cylinder, V6 and hybrid engines. Get the V6 for satisfying acceleration or choose the hybrid for maximum fuel economy. Both are available with all-wheel drive and in different trim levels that cater to your equipment needs.

Look for: The 2017-2019 models that boast numerous improvements over earlier versions. These include more power and fuel efficiency, added driver assist features and a sporty SE trim level.







PICKUP TRUCK: 2005-2015

TOYOTA TACOMA

Tacomas are just about as bulletproof as trucks come, which means they hold their value extraordinarily well. Finding a used one with less than 100,000 miles for under \$15,000 is tough, but if the truck is clean and properly maintained, don't worry too much about a six-digit odometer reading. However, do plan on getting something basic unless you can increase your budget.

Look for: Important safety features became standard on the Tacoma starting with the 2009 model year. If you want a Tacoma with a luxury vibe, look for one with the Limited package starting for 2013. In general, the newer the Tacoma, the better the infotainment technology it will have.

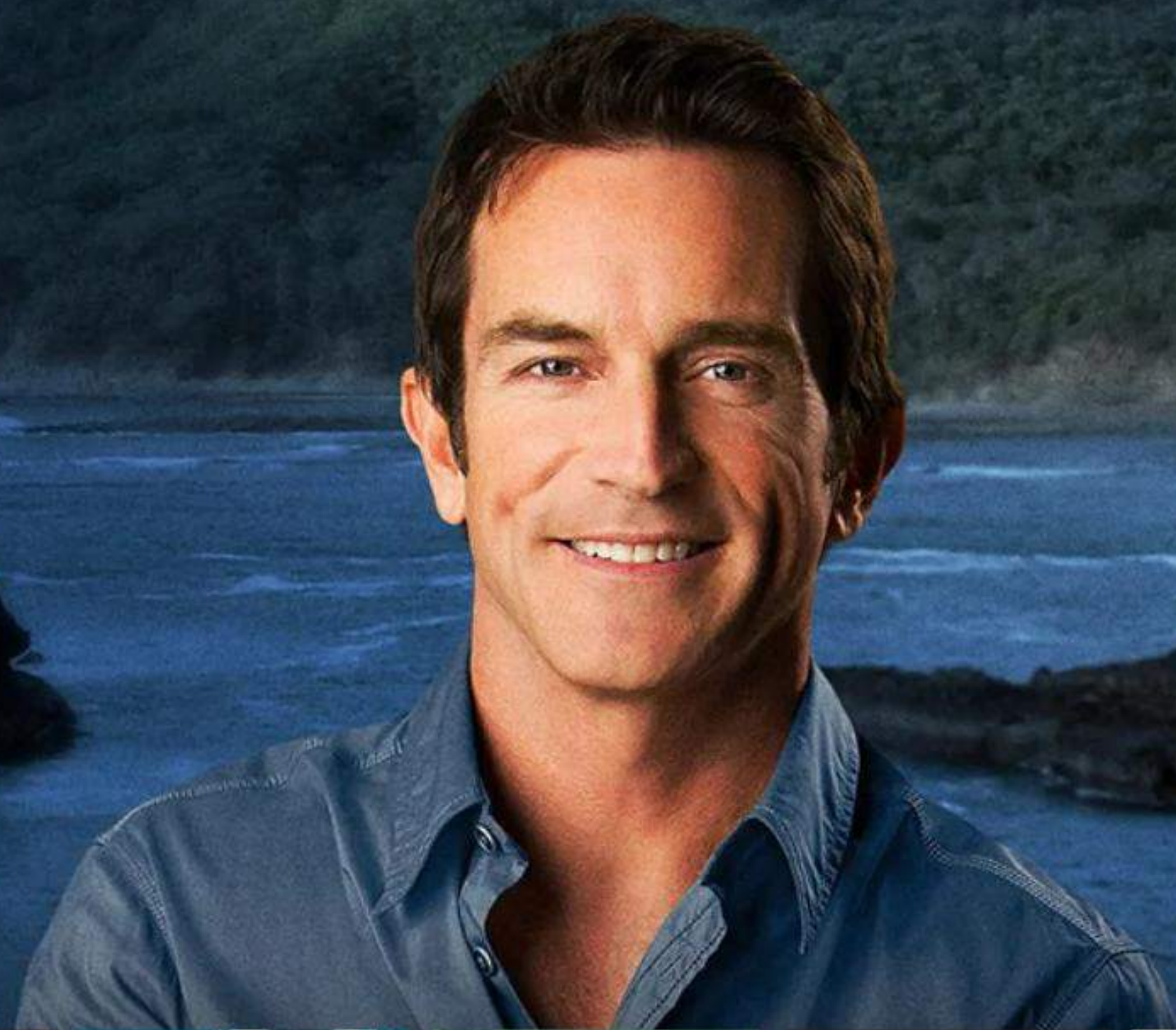
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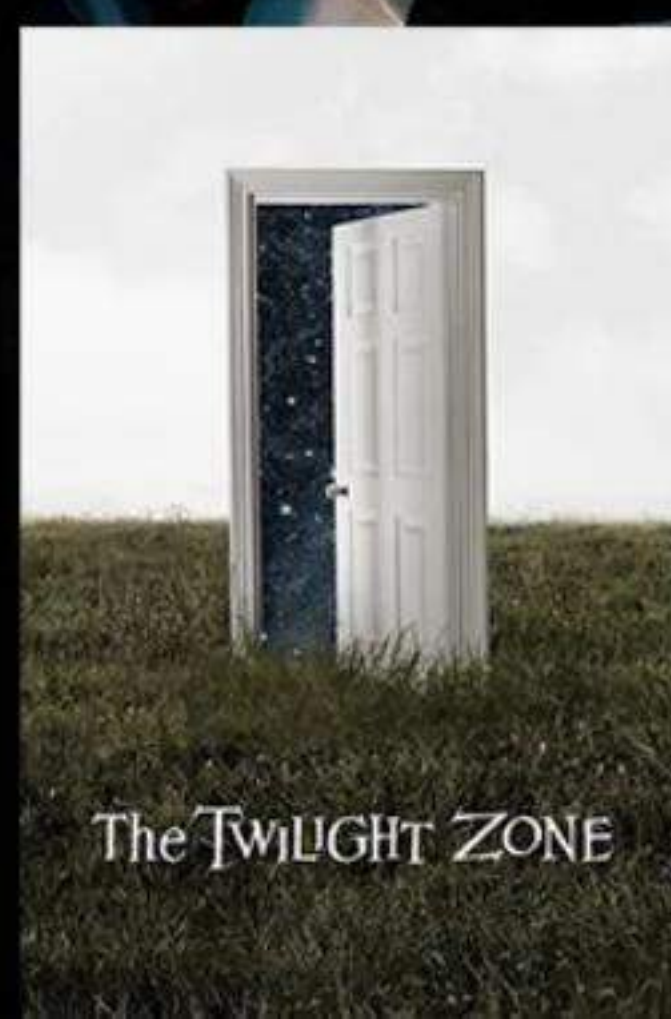
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GOOGLE'S SEARCH ENGINE'S LATEST AI INJECTION WILL ANSWER VOICED QUESTIONS ABOUT VIDEO AND PHOTOS

Google is injecting its search engine with more artificial intelligence that will enable people to voice questions about images and occasionally organize an entire page of results, despite the technology's past misadventures with misleading information.

The latest changes announced Thursday herald the next step in an AI-driven makeover that Google launched in mid-May when it began responding to some queries with summaries written by the technology at the top of its influential results page. Those summaries, dubbed "AI Overviews," raised fears among publishers that fewer people would click on search links to their websites





and undercut the traffic needed to sell digital ads that help finance their operations.

Google is addressing some of those ongoing worries by inserting even more links to other websites within the AI Overviews, which already have been reducing the visits to general news publishers such as The New York Times and technology review specialists such as TomsGuide.com, according to an analysis released last month by search traffic specialist BrightEdge.

The same study found the citations within AI Overviews are driving more traffic to highly specialized sites such as Bloomberg.com and the National Institute of Health.

Google's decision to pump even more AI into the search engine that remains the crown jewel of its \$2 trillion empire leaves little doubt that the Mountain View, California, company is tethering its future to a technology propelling the biggest industry shift since Apple unveiled the first iPhone 17 years ago.

The next phase of Google's AI evolution builds upon its 7-year-old Lens feature that processes queries about objects in a picture. The Lens option is now generates more than 20 billion queries per month, and is particularly popular among users from 18 to 24 years old. That's a younger demographic that Google is trying to cultivate as it faces competition from AI alternatives powered by ChatGPT and Perplexity that are positioning themselves as answer engines.

Now, people will be able to use Lens to ask a question in English about something they are viewing through a camera lens — as if they were talking about it with a friend — and get search results. Users signed up for tests of the new voice-







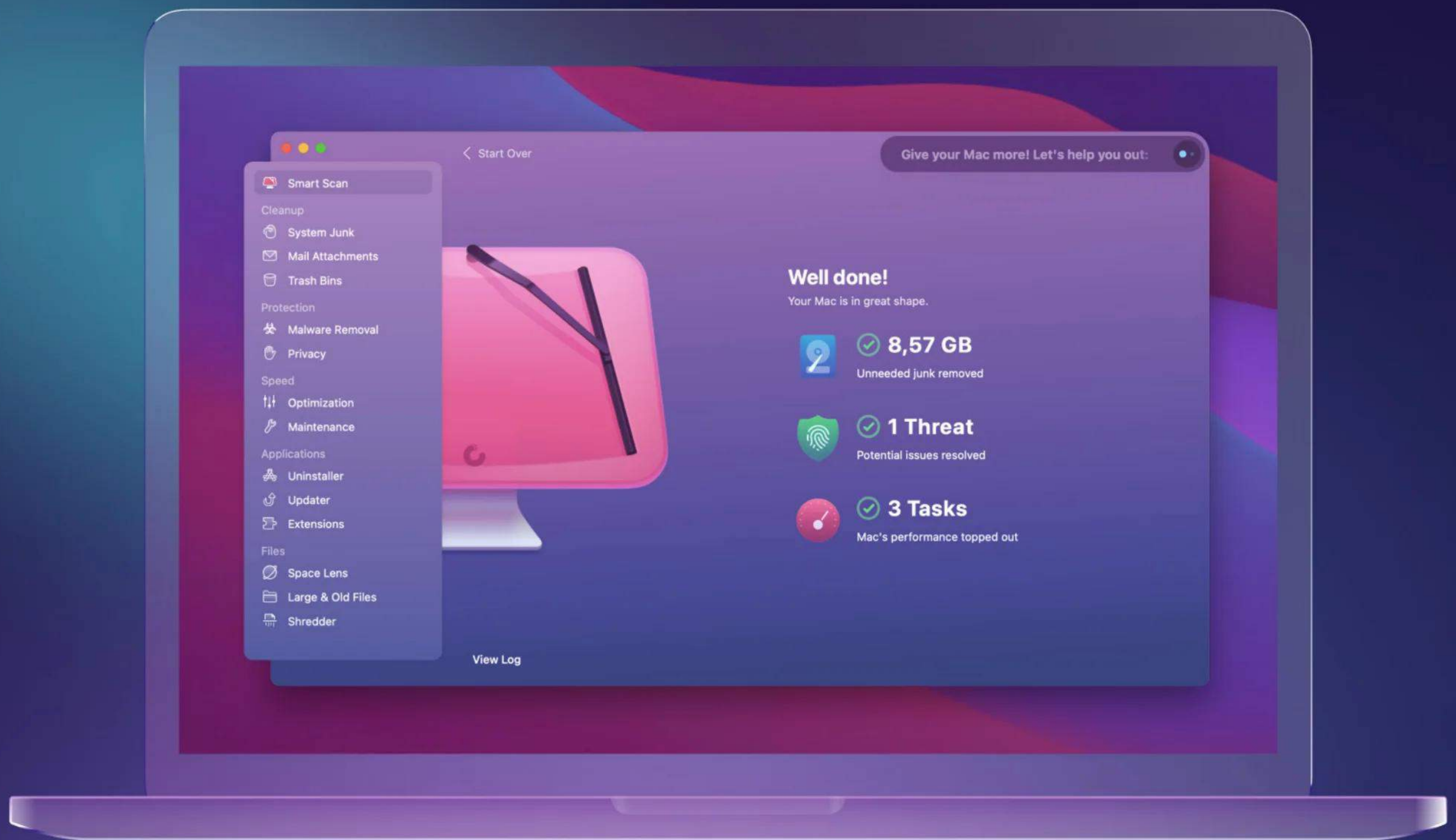


activated search features in Google Labs will also be able to take video of moving objects, such as fish swimming around aquarium, while posing a conversational question and be presented an answer through an AI Overview.

“The whole goal is can we make search simpler to use for people, more effortless to use and make it more available so people can search any way, anywhere they are,” said Rajan Patel, Google’s vice president of search engineering and a co-founder of the Lens feature.

Although advances in AI offer the potential of making search more convenient, the technology also sometimes spits out bad information — a risk that threatens to damage the credibility of Google’s search engine if the inaccuracies become too frequent. Google has already had some embarrassing episodes with its AI Overviews, including advising people to put glue on pizza and to eat rocks. The company blamed those missteps on data voids and online troublemakers deliberately trying to steer its AI technology in a wrong direction.

Google is now so confident that it has fixed some of its AI’s blind spots that it will rely on the technology to decide what types of information to feature on the results page. Despite its previous bad culinary advice about pizza and rocks, AI will initially be used for the presentation of the results for queries in English about recipes and meal ideas entered on mobile devices. The AI-organized results are supposed to be broken down into different groups of clusters consisting of photos, videos and articles about the subject.



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AFTER HELENE'S DESTRUCTION, A MOUNTAIN TOWN RELIANT ON FALL TOURISM WONDERS WHAT'S NEXT





Freddie Pell helps lift a vintage wooden chair off the sidewalk and back inside his art gallery. It's starting to rain in downtown Boone, and he doesn't want it to get soaked — again.

Inside, vast muddy puddles spread across the room as workers use mops to push the water out the door. A thin dark line on the wall — about a foot up from the floor — shows how high the water rose when Tropical Storm Helene came barreling through, Pell said.

"Luckily, most of our art is on the wall," Pell said, gesturing to the vibrant paintings and prints crafted by local artists.

In the days after Helene razed much of western North Carolina, some store owners in downtown Boone have a lot of cleanup to do and don't know if they'll see much business at all for the foreseeable future — a critical problem for a town of about 19,000 people that relies on tourism, especially in the fall.

Like many towns that dot the Blue Ridge Mountains, Boone sees flocks of visitors eager to witness the cascade of vivid colors from the changing autumn leaves starting in October. Many also come to cheer on various sports teams at Appalachian State University. The rush of tourists brings millions of dollars to the town, as well as the state.

But Helene's devastation throws that all into question.

Across Watauga County, where Boone is located, many residents have no power or cell service. Several roads are washed out, leaving people trapped or forced to find another way out. Emergency service personnel worked nonstop to rescue people.





On the highway that snakes up toward downtown Boone, downed trees precariously lie upside down on the mountainside along the road. In some places, power lines sag under them like a slingshot.

Once on King Street — the main road that slices through downtown Boone — the sidewalks' dull muddy sheen is a reminder of the rushing murky waters that engulfed the street as the storm plowed through.

Some people roam the sidewalk, curious about what businesses they can enter. Many were still closed, and it's unclear when they'll reopen.

Businesses take time to recover — then worry what's next

The back door of Melanie's, a brunch spot on King Street, floods during a normal downpour, co-owner Paul Tuttle said. After seeing the "apocalyptic" damage from Helene, Tuttle expected the worst when he ventured to town.

He walked in to find the building — which dates back to the early 1900s — largely unscathed. A mat Tuttle propped up against the door to seal it had surprisingly stopped water from seeping in, he said.

The restaurant reopened this week, but he wasn't concerned about making money just then. Despite having no internet and operating under a boil water advisory, Tuttle said he wanted to stay open for storm victims in need of a hot meal.

That doesn't mean he isn't nervous about what the coming weeks will bring for the cafe. Tuttle is already having conversations with his business partner on what to expect. Most of the restaurant's profit is made between July and October —





with October being the second-best month for business, he said.

"I don't know if anyone wants to come up here if they were normally coming to look at one of the prettiest places in the whole country, and now they're coming to look at devastation," Tuttle said.

Some are noticing warning signs that could spell trouble for tourism in Boone and surrounding mountain towns.

Kurt Kaunath, 60, rode out the storm with his wife in their camper overlooking Watauga Lake in Tennessee. They had no cell service, and at one point, he said he was worried the winds would topple the camper into the lake — but the couple made it out safely.

When they returned to his home in the outskirts of Blowing Rock — about 8 miles (13 kilometers) south of Boone — this week, there was still no power. His job as a part-time paramedic in downtown Boone has become a refuge — giving him access to running water and air conditioning.

But Kaunath said there's been "cancellation after cancellation" for an Airbnb he owns in the area. It was almost fully booked for October before the storm hit, he said.

"That's when all these businesses make their money, and that's when all the people are here supporting the hotels and all the infrastructure that's here," he said. "And that's not going to happen."

October is the busiest time of year for Lililu on King, a clothing boutique in downtown Boone that was undamaged, manager Kim Greene said. The store didn't have internet access to run their cash register, so Greene spent her time packing





up sale items to donate to storm victims with employee Sarah Jackson.

But there's still a lot of uncertainty about when they can reopen — and if they'll have enough employees to run the shop.

'I don't know where we go from here'

Some shops like Lililu on King mainly employ students from Appalachian State University, which canceled classes until at least this weekend. With students heading home, store owners will have to manage without them for now.

"It's down to the two of us," Greene said, mustering a smile before adding, "if we do open back up, and we can do that when we're able."

The university, which has more than 20,000 students, seemed largely empty. The university's arena, Holmes Convocation Center, has been converted into a Red Cross emergency shelter with donations piling up outside the entrance. Some students who lived in off-campus apartments don't have housing after flooding.

Aidan Mullane, a 19-year-old ASU sophomore, is doubtful classes will resume at all this semester. He received an email from a professor who said their house experienced "significant damage" and would limit their ability to respond to students. Mullane said his professor is one of many facing the same problem.

"I don't know where we go from here," Mullane said. "If professors can't live here, what do you do?"





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AMAZON, TARGET AND OTHER RETAILERS ARE RAMPING UP HIRING FOR THE HOLIDAY SHOPPING SEASON

Retailers are ramping up hiring for the holiday season, but fewer seasonal employees are expected to be taken on this year to help customers in stores and assemble online orders in warehouses.

E-commerce giant Amazon said Thursday it will hire 250,000 full, part-time and seasonal workers for the crucial shopping period, rounding out a series of announcements made in recent weeks by the country's top retailers.

Amazon is hiring the same number of employees it did last year, similar to Bath & Body Works and Target, which said in September it





Image: Richard Vogel

planned to bring in roughly 100,000 seasonal employees and offer current employees the option to work extra hours during the holiday shopping period.

Meanwhile, the department store Kohl's encouraged people to apply for positions but stayed mum on its plans, mirroring Walmart, which said it's been hiring store associates throughout the year and will tap into its own staff when needed during the busy season.

Others have indicated they will scale back their holiday hiring. Macy's said it would add more than 31,500 seasonal positions this year across its Macy's, Bloomingdale's and Bluemercury stores, as well as its distribution centers. Last year, the company added 38,000.

This year's demand for seasonal workers comes as economists are watching the U.S. job market for signs of a slowdown. Job openings have come down steadily since peaking at 12.2 million in March 2022. When the economy roared back with unexpected strength from COVID-19 lockdowns, companies scrambled to find enough workers to keep up with customer orders.

The holiday shopping period is the busiest time of year for online and brick-and-mortar retailers, some of which have already announced discount events to entice consumers planning to shop early for gifts.

The consulting firm Deloitte forecasts U.S. retail sales will increase 2.3% to 3.3% between November and January and reach a total of \$1.59 trillion. EY-Parthenon, the consulting arm of Ernst & Young, forecasts a similar 3% jump in sales during the traditional November-December period.





Image: Nick Iwanyshyn

However, EY Parthenon expects price increases due to inflation to account for a big chunk of that growth, saying real volume sales will only rise 0.5% year-over-year.

Online sales, a growing segment of retail, is expected to increase 8.4% and reach a record \$240.8 billion, according to Adobe, which tracks e-commerce transactions.

"At the moment, retailers appear optimistic for a strong holiday shopping season, which is being reflected in the hiring plans of major retailers and warehouses," said Andy Challenger, senior vice president at the outplacement firm Challenger, Gray & Christmas.

Overall, U.S. retailers are expected to add 520,000 new jobs in the final quarter of this year compared to 564,200 in 2023, according to a report released last month by Challenger, Gray & Christmas. The firm, which analyzes non-seasonally adjusted data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, says that's more than the 509,300 seasonal jobs retailers added in 2022. But it represents the second-lowest total since 2009.

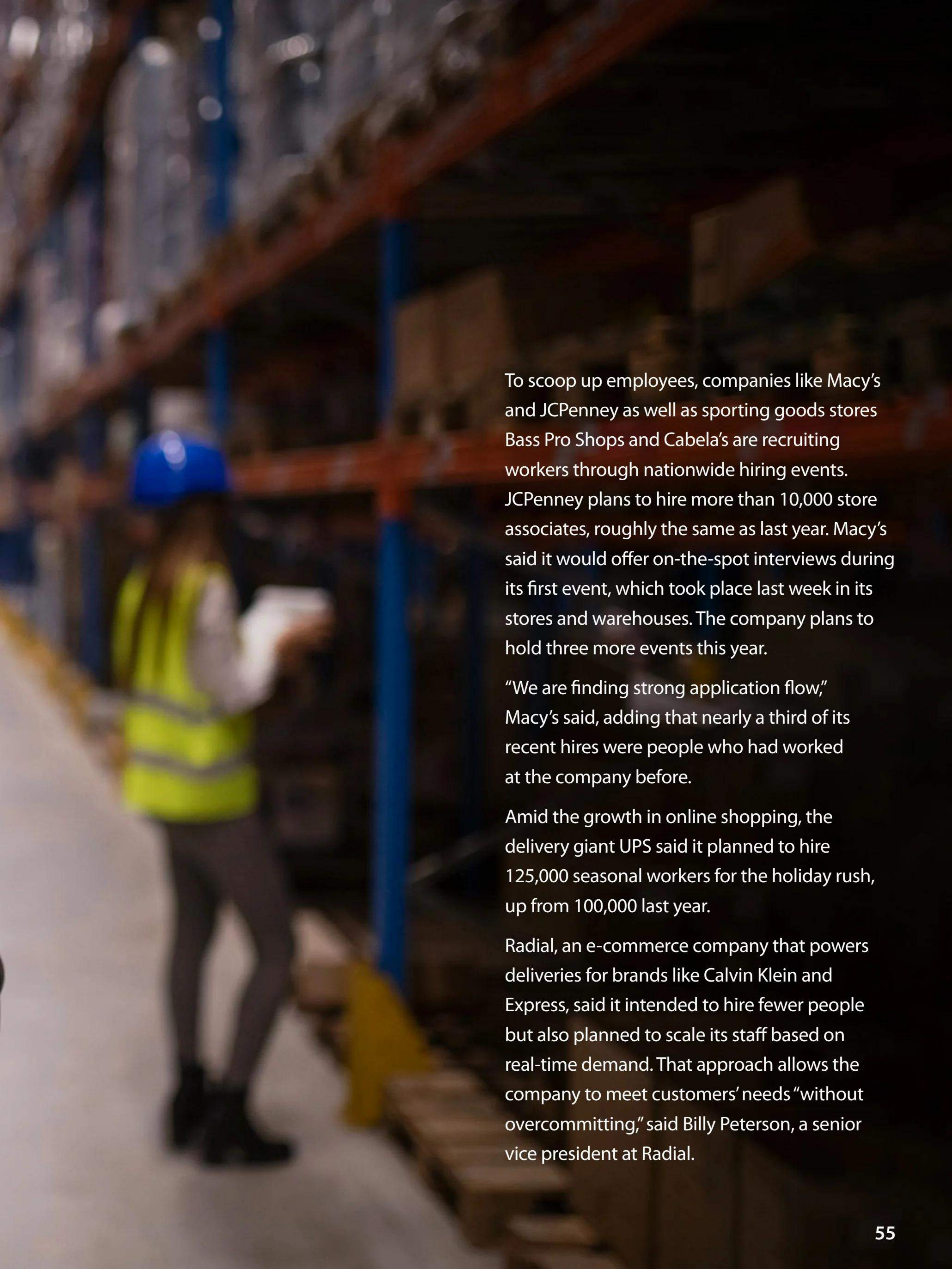
Generally, the labor market has gradually lost momentum since the Federal Reserve hiked its benchmark interest rate numerous times in 2022 and 2023 to combat high inflation. Last month, the Fed cut its key rate for the first time in more than four years. The move reflected its new focus on bolstering the job market.

The retail industry nevertheless may encounter challenges filling openings in the coming weeks and months "due to the demands of the job and pay," Challenger said.









To scoop up employees, companies like Macy's and JCPenney as well as sporting goods stores Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's are recruiting workers through nationwide hiring events. JCPenney plans to hire more than 10,000 store associates, roughly the same as last year. Macy's said it would offer on-the-spot interviews during its first event, which took place last week in its stores and warehouses. The company plans to hold three more events this year.

"We are finding strong application flow," Macy's said, adding that nearly a third of its recent hires were people who had worked at the company before.

Amid the growth in online shopping, the delivery giant UPS said it planned to hire 125,000 seasonal workers for the holiday rush, up from 100,000 last year.

Radial, an e-commerce company that powers deliveries for brands like Calvin Klein and Express, said it intended to hire fewer people but also planned to scale its staff based on real-time demand. That approach allows the company to meet customers' needs "without overcommitting," said Billy Peterson, a senior vice president at Radial.



On the buyer side, consumers have been resilient with their spending while also showing signs of stress, with credit-card debt rising and savings rates falling, trends that could weigh on spending in future months.

Retail sales ticked up from July to August, after jumping the most in a year and a half the previous month. At the same time, consumers have been more prudent about their purchases and pushing back against high prices by trading down to store brands or seeking out deals for products.

However, holiday shoppers could see even higher prices on products if a port workers' strike that has shut down all the major dockyards on the Eastern seaboard of the U.S. and the Gulf coast persists for more than a month.

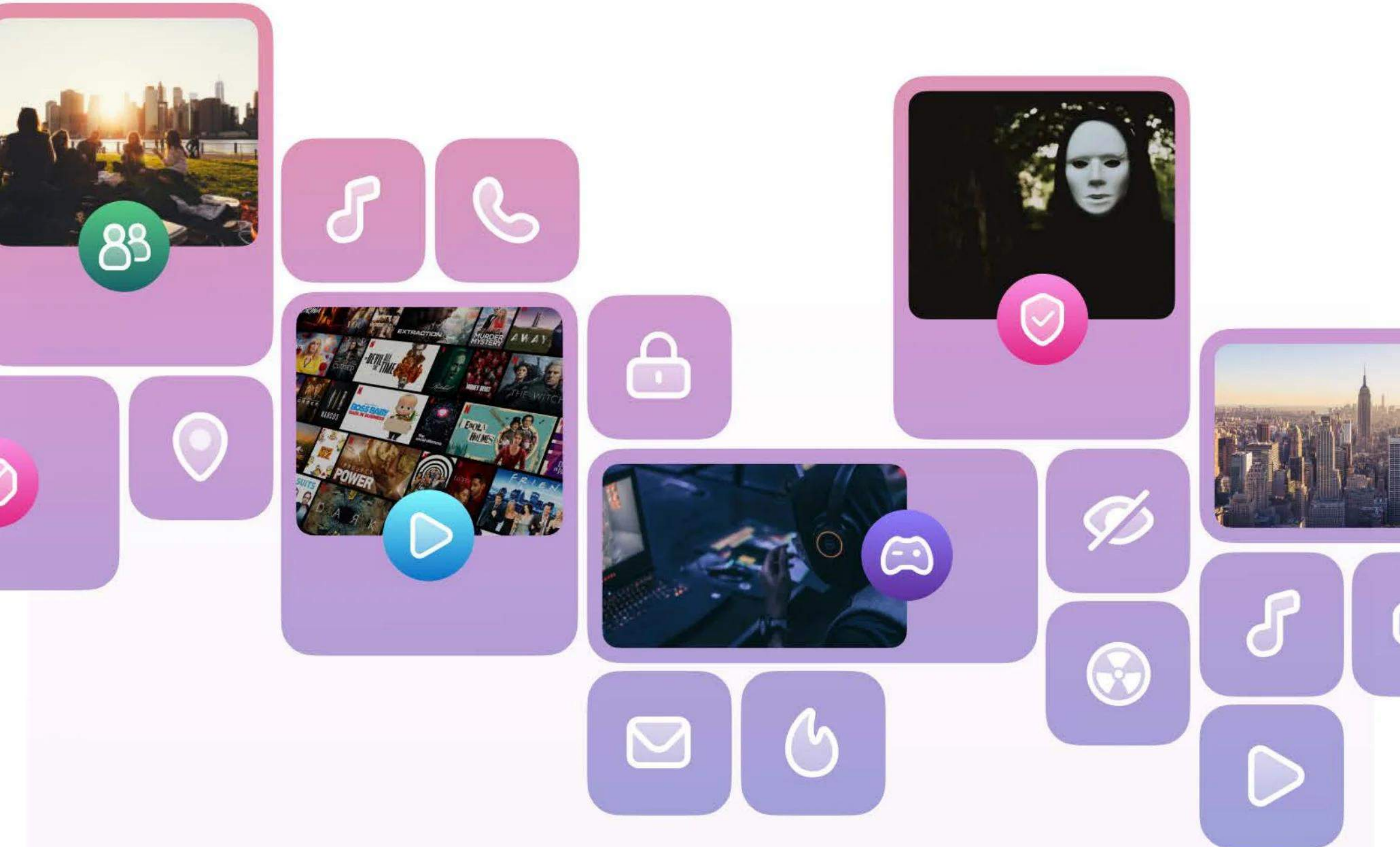


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DREAMWORKS ANIMATION AT 30: PAINTING A BRIGHT PATH FORWARD WITH 'THE WILD ROBOT'

Filmmaker Chris Sanders had finally cracked "The Wild Robot."

Peter Brown's middle-grade book, about an intelligent robot living in the wilderness, had been sitting on the shelf at DreamWorks Animation for a bit. No one had quite figured it out. Then Sanders, the man behind beloved animated features from "Lilo & Stitch" to "How to Train Your Dragon," came along.

His vision, however, was different from the norm: The story started without zippy dialogue and didn't follow traditional beats. He also wanted





to embrace a more illustrated style that melded analog warmth with computer generated imagery capabilities, which was finally technologically possible. Before he got too deep, he needed to make sure the studio was on board.

"They said, 'That's the reason we bought the book. We want to do something different,'" Sanders said. "One of the great strengths of DreamWorks is they're willing to try new things. To everybody's credit, they stayed the course."

And it's already paying off. "The Wild Robot" opened No. 1 in theaters nationwide this weekend, riding in on a wave of critical acclaim. Sanders didn't know it at the time but something bigger was at play too: "The Wild Robot" would be released coinciding with the studio's 30th anniversary.

It wasn't so long ago that DreamWorks was the new kid on the block. The upstart, founded by Jeffrey Katzenberg, Steven Spielberg and David Geffen, was in October 1994 the first new studio in 60 years. Since their first animated release ("Antz," in 1998), DreamWorks Animation has released 49 feature films that have grossed more than \$17 billion at the box office. They have major franchises, including "Shrek," which became the first best animated feature Oscar winner, "Kung Fu Panda" and "How to Train Your Dragon," originals and Emmy-winning television series.

Animation continues to be a major force at the box office. This year there are already three animated films in the top 10 global earners: Disney and Pixar's "Inside Out 2" (\$1.6 billion), Illumination's "Despicable Me 4" (\$953.3 million) and DreamWorks' "Kung Fu Panda 4" (\$549.1 million). Post-theatrical,





too, animated movies are regularly among the top performers on streaming services. Their wildly popular preschool series “Gabby’s Dollhouse” was the sixth-most-viewed streaming original series in 2023.

“Every studio has its ups and downs, but their franchises really spoke to me,” said Margie Cohn, who was named DreamWorks Animation president in 2019. “They never spoke down to kids, they were movies that were made for the entire family. And they respected animation not as a genre, but as a theatrical experience.”

A veteran of Nickelodeon, Cohn was recruited by Katzenberg in 2013 to build the DWA Television department where she saw opportunities in groundbreaking partnerships with streaming companies like Netflix. Three years into her tenure, DWA, then essentially an independent studio, was acquired by NBCUniversal, a division of Comcast Corp., for \$3.8 billion. Universal also has the animation studio Illumination under its banner. DWA and Illumination (think “Minions” and “Despicable Me”) mostly operate separately, with “Shrek” as the one crossover. In her new role, Cohn oversees both film and television properties.

“You don’t come to the studio and then suddenly you have a slate. You have to build the slate, and it takes years,” Cohn said. “We just needed to get back to those roots.”

“The Wild Robot” is a key part of that equation, different visually and thematically from what came before and what’s coming. Next year has three films on the schedule: “Dog Man,” based on Dav Pilkey’s graphic novels about a police officer and dog who become one after an injury, “The Bad Guys 2” and “Gabby’s

Dollhouse: The Movie.” Then, in July 2026, they plan to release the first new Shrek movie in over 15 years.

The diversity of the slate, the appeal to different audience segments from pre-school age on up and the lack of house style, Cohn said, are a great signifier of the ambition of the studio.

“It’s still an event for a family to go to the movies, but you have to give them a reason to go,” Cohn said. “The bar for theatrical has gotten higher, but that makes us better. It raises the bar for us too.”

Critics and audiences have noticed the care taken with “The Wild Robot,” which is already in the Oscar conversation. Sanders collaborated more closely with his actors than ever before, including star Lupita Nyong’o, who had the difficult task of voicing a robot, ROZZUM unit 7134, or Roz for short, who has an emotional arc.

“There’s a timelessness to it and I loved the core message of kindness being a survival tactic and that sometimes you have to go beyond your programming,” Nyong’o said. “But I wanted to know that he was looking for a collaborator not an executor.”

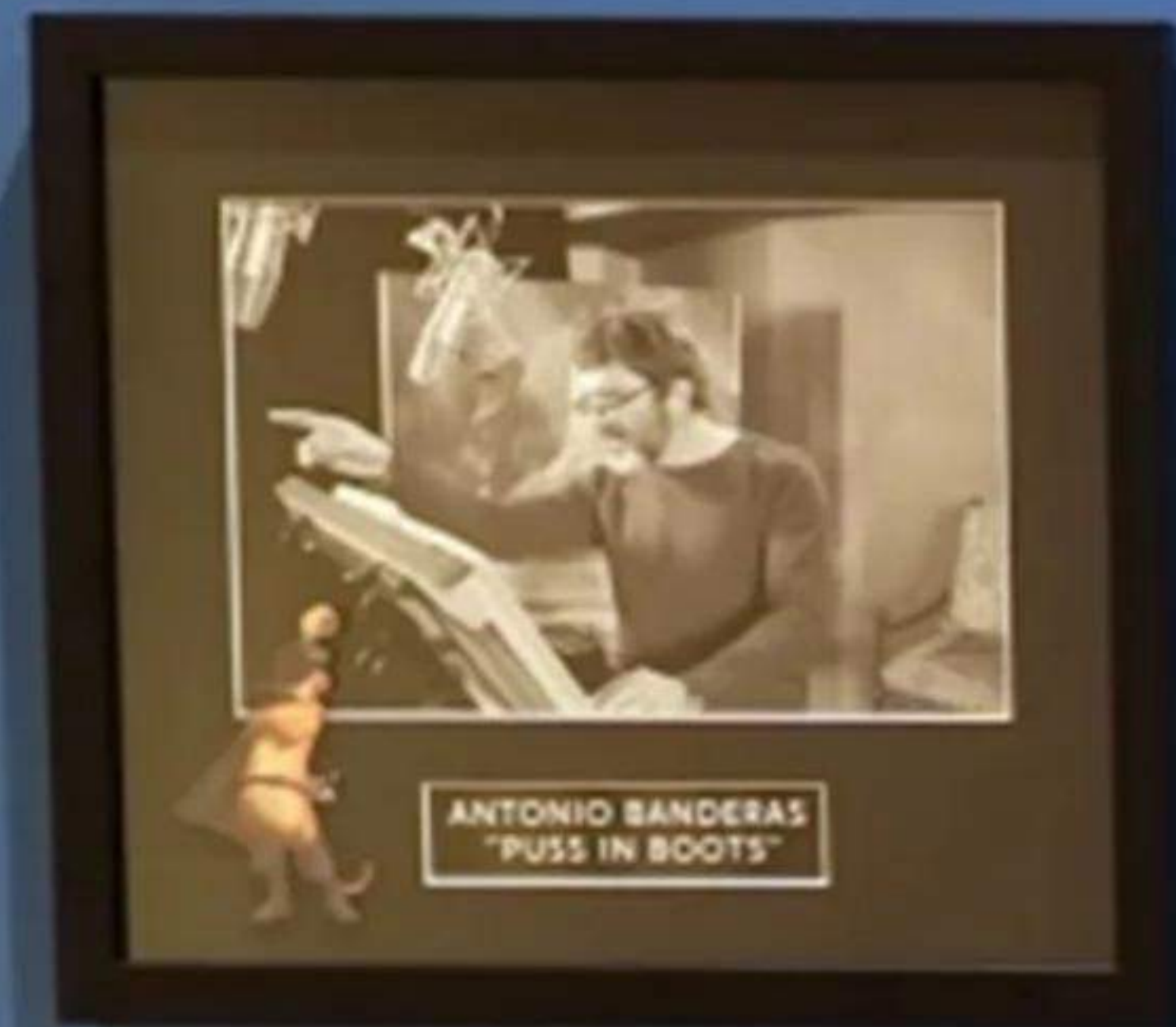
Sanders is certain the film wouldn’t be nearly what it is without the thoughtfulness she applied to “deconstructing the architecture of Roz’s mind.”

Animation technology also allowed more human involvement on the project than he’s had since “Lilo & Stitch,” which came out 22 years ago.

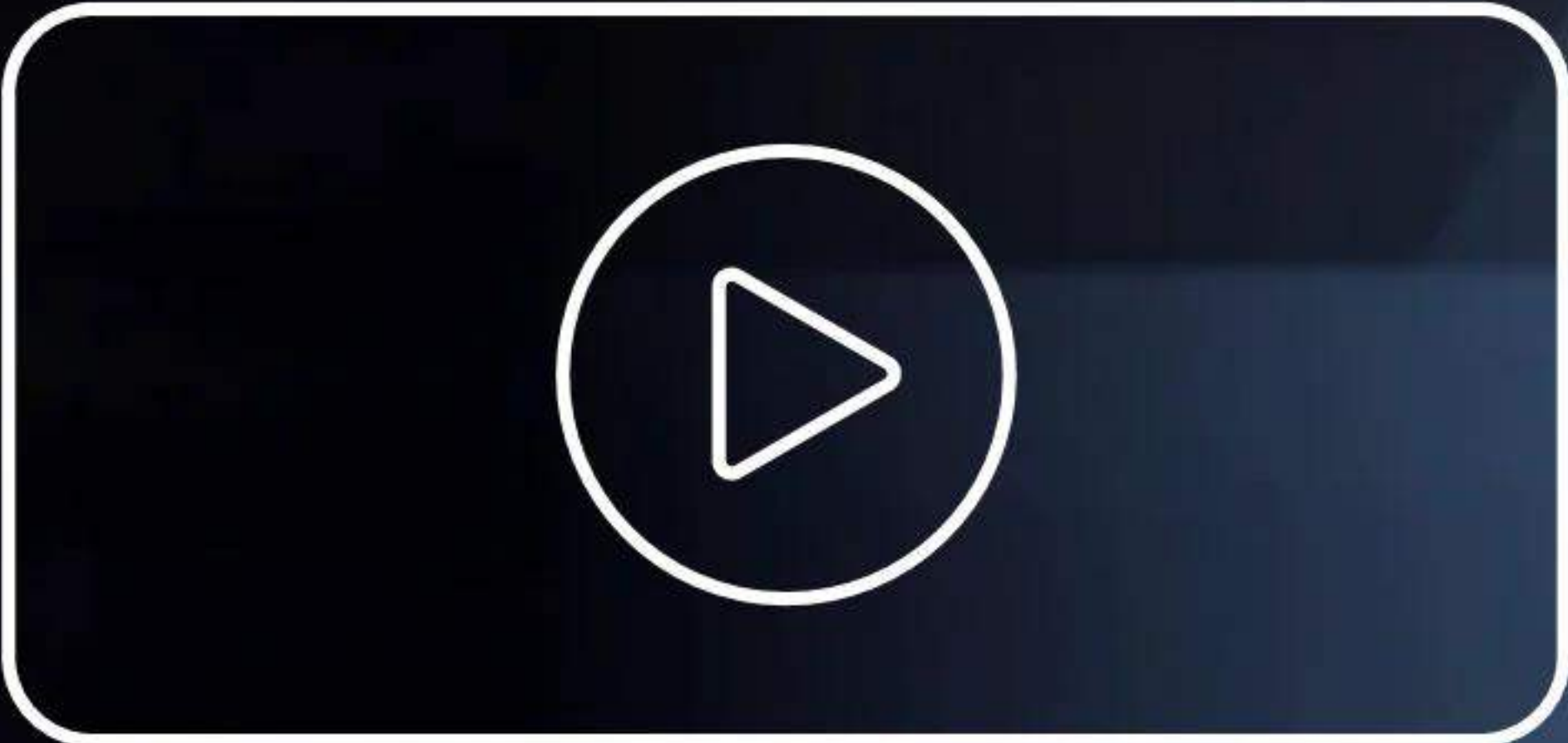
“Every square inch of this film is painted by a matte painter: Every tree, every ground plane, every rock, every flower is a stroke made by a human being,” Sanders said. “I started in animation when everything was hand-drawn and painted,







The Wild Robot | Official Trailer



The Wild Robot | Final Trailer





and then CGI came along and we got so many wonderful things, including the ability to change lenses and move the camera in space. But then we lost touch with a lot of the analog warmth we used to get. Now we put all that stuff back and kept all the wonderful things that we got along the way. It's a very exciting time."

Another interesting thing happened to those involved with "The Wild Robot." Nobody wanted it to end.

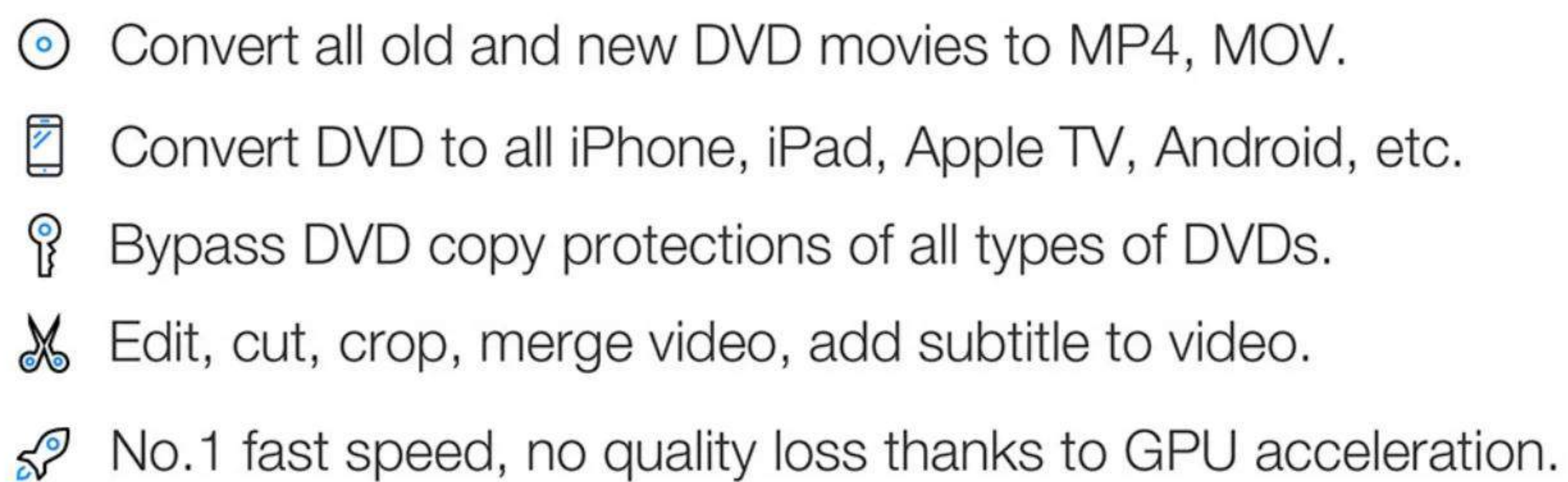
"Usually, even if you love the movie, you're proud of it, you're ready to be done after three or four years. But that wasn't the case in this instance," Sanders said. "Everybody went into this forest and fell in love with it and fell in love with the characters and the story."

While no sequels have officially been announced, "The Wild Robot" is a three-book series and Sanders is eager to jump back into the forest. Animation, he said, has come out of a tunnel where they're freer to maneuver stylistically than they have been for decades; He's extremely optimistic about the possibilities. DreamWorks Animation is as well.

"We are really proud of where we are today at our 30th anniversary, and we have enormous hope for the future," Cohn said. "We're excited about the originals still and we hope and believe that audiences will be, too. So, we're going to forge forward with originals as well as wildly imagined franchises and hopefully it'll take us into another 30 years."



Learn More >>



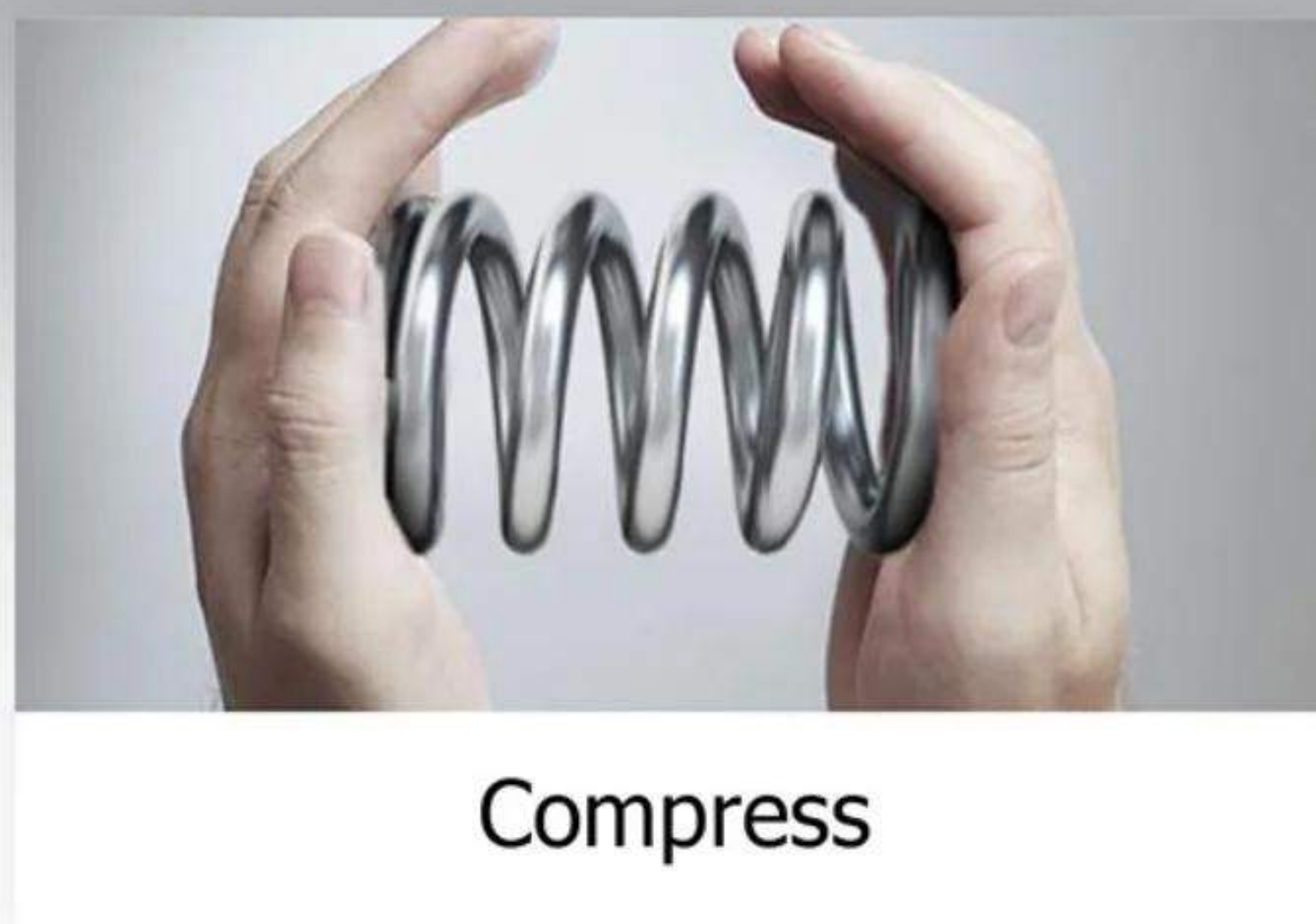
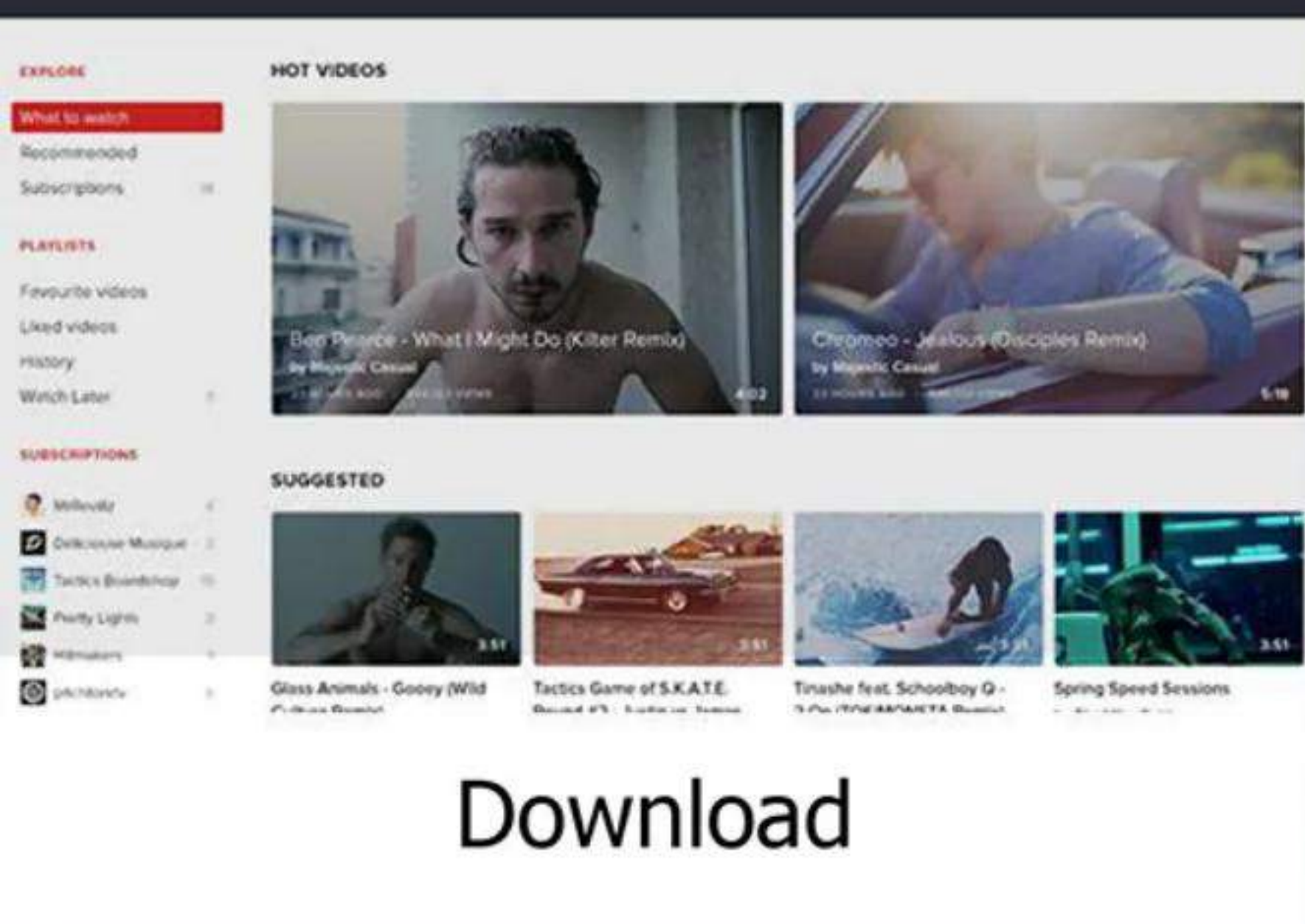
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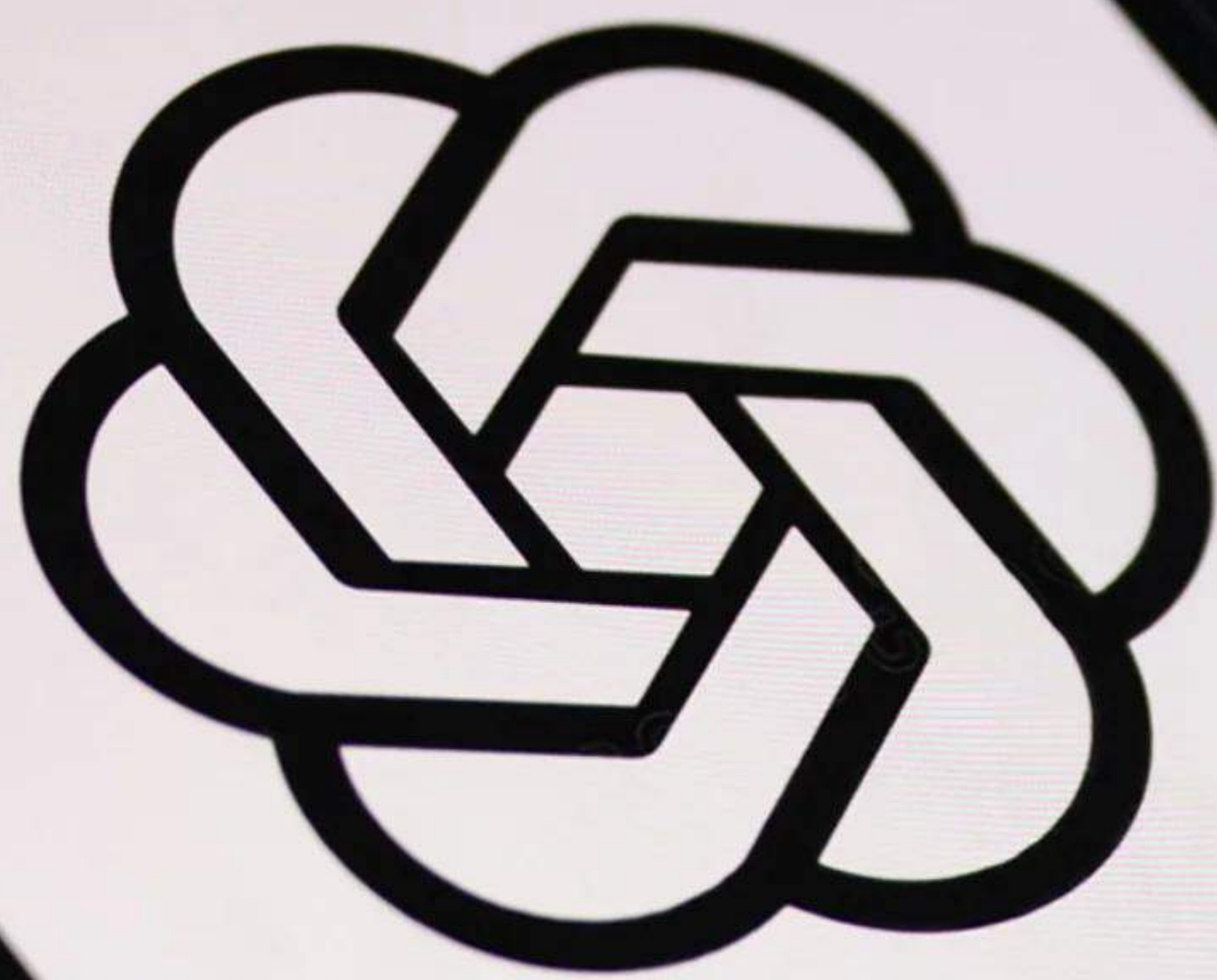
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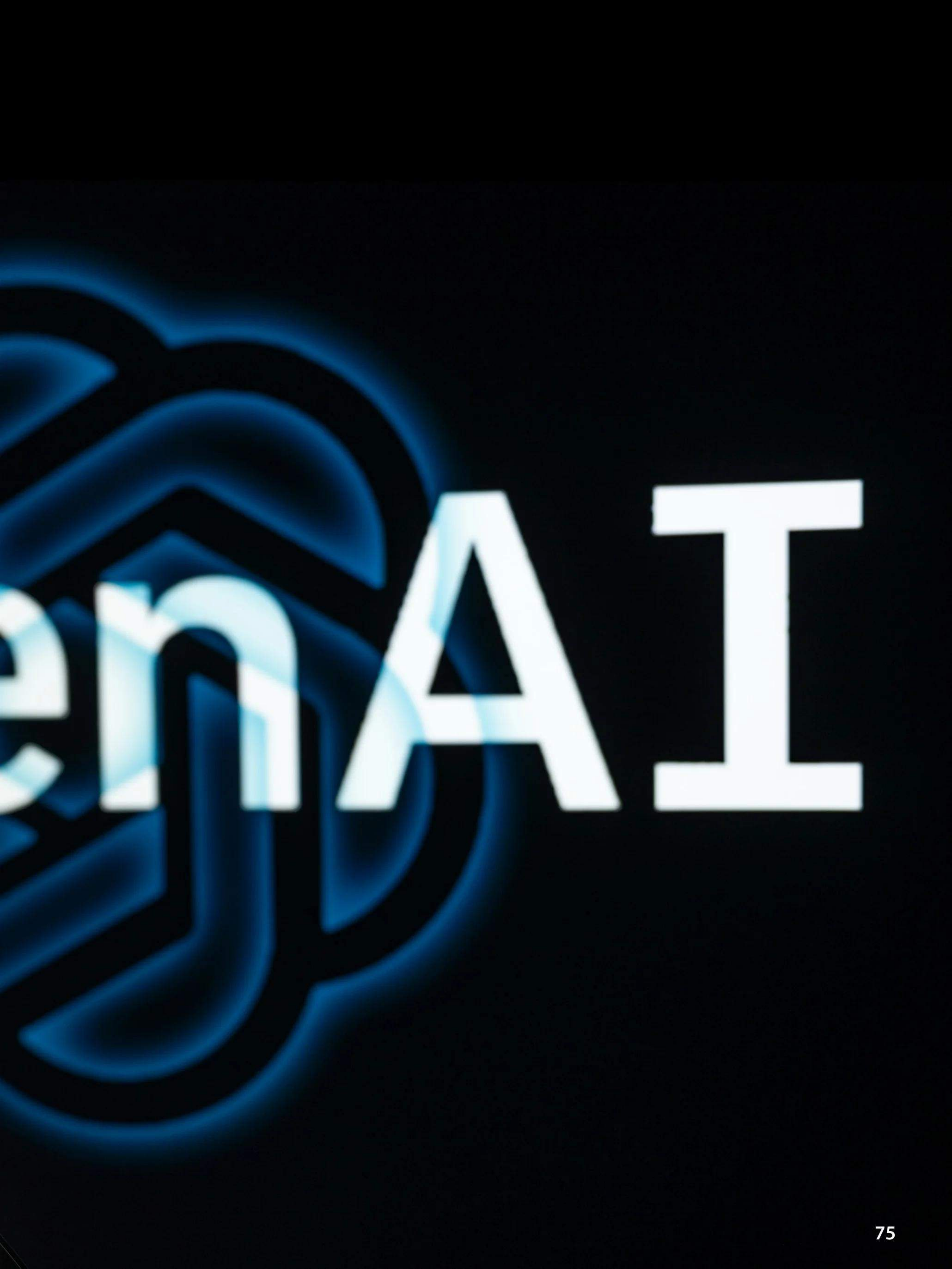
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OPENAI LOOKS TO SHIFT AWAY FROM NONPROFIT ROOTS AND CONVERT ITSELF TO FOR-PROFIT COMPANY



ChatGPT

An abstract, glowing blue geometric pattern, resembling a complex knot or a series of interlocking loops, is visible in the background. The pattern has a 3D effect with highlights and shadows, giving it a sense of depth. It is set against a solid black background.

er AI

OpenAI's history as a nonprofit research institute that also sells commercial products like ChatGPT may be coming to an end as the San Francisco company looks to more fully convert itself into a for-profit corporation accountable to shareholders.

The artificial intelligence company's board is considering a decision that would change OpenAI into a public benefit corporation, according to a source familiar with the discussions who wasn't authorized to speak publicly about them.

While OpenAI already has a for-profit division, where most of its staff works, it is controlled by a nonprofit board of directors whose mission is to help humanity. That would change if the company converts the core of its structure to a public benefit corporation, which is a type of corporate entity that is supposed to help society as well as turn a profit.

No final decision has been made by the board and the timing of the shift hasn't been determined, the source said.

OpenAI's CEO Sam Altman acknowledged in public remarks that the company is thinking about restructuring but said the departures of key executives the day before weren't related.

Speaking at a tech conference in Italy, Altman mentioned that OpenAI has been considering an overhaul to get to the "next stage." But he said it was not connected to the last week resignations of Chief Technology Officer Mira Murati and two other top leaders.

"OpenAI will be stronger for it as we are for all of our transitions," Altman told the Italian Tech Week event in Turin. "I saw some stuff that







this was, like, related to a restructure. That's totally not true. Most of the stuff I saw was also just totally wrong," he said without any more specificity.

"But we have been thinking about (a restructuring)," he added.

OpenAI said that it will still retain a nonprofit arm.

"We remain focused on building AI that benefits everyone and as we've previously shared we're working with our board to ensure that we're best positioned to succeed in our mission," it said in a written statement. "The nonprofit is core to our mission and will continue to exist."

OpenAI is not the first technology company to try to balance commercial and humanitarian objectives but its maneuvers drew a rebuke from Mozilla, which blends a nonprofit foundation and research hub with a company known for making the Firefox web browser.

"The principled staff exodus at OpenAI is another example of their true long-term goal: profit," said Mozilla president Mark Surman in an emailed statement. "As far as we can tell, OpenAI no longer exists as a public interest organization."

Altman asserted that the resignations of Murati, Chief Research Officer Bob McGrew and another research leader, Barret Zoph, were "just about people being ready for new chapters of their lives and a new generation of leadership."

But the exits were the latest in a string of recent high-profile departures that also include the resignations of OpenAI co-founder Ilya Sutskever and safety team leader Jan Leike in

May. In a statement, Leike had leveled criticism at OpenAI for letting safety “take a backseat to shiny products.”

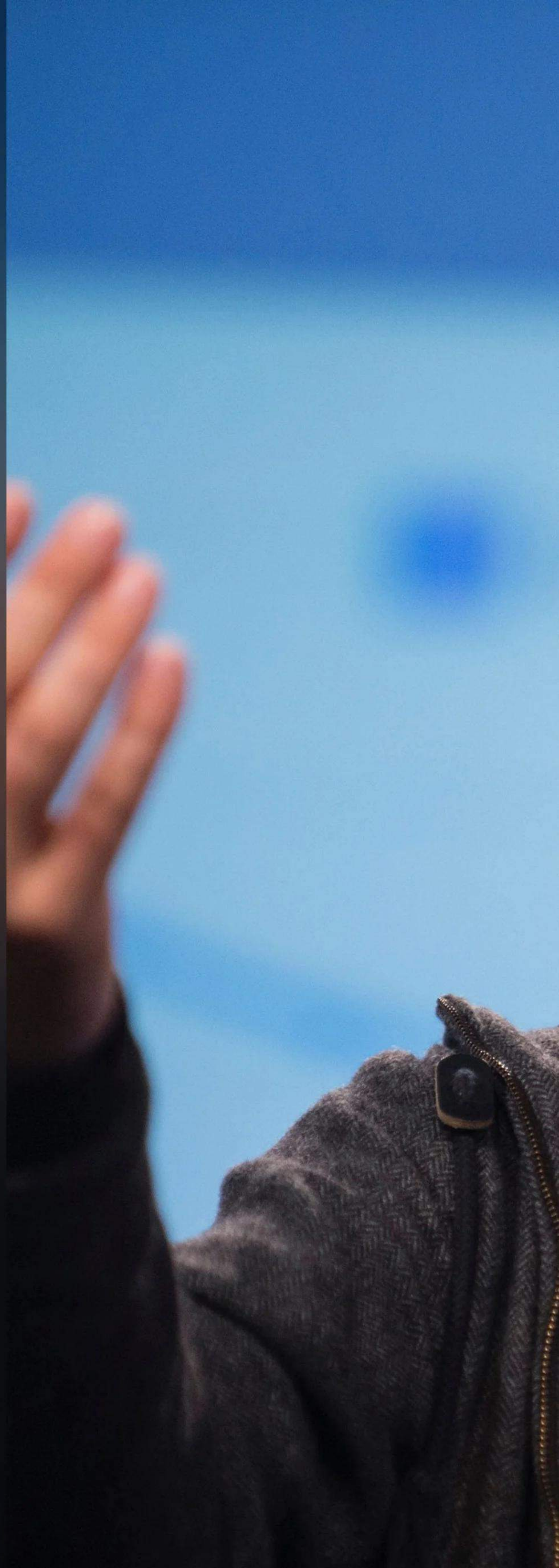
Much of the conflict at OpenAI has been rooted in its unusual governance structure. Founded in 2015 as a nonprofit with a mission to safely build futuristic AI to help humanity, it is now a fast-growing big business still controlled by a nonprofit board bound to its original mission.

This unique structure made it possible for four OpenAI board members — Sutskever, two outside tech entrepreneurs and an academic — to briefly oust Altman last November in what was later described as a dispute over a “significant breakdown in trust” between the board and top executives. But with help from a powerful backer, Microsoft, Altman was brought back to the CEO role days later and a new board replaced the old one. OpenAI also put Altman back on the board of directors in March.

It may not be easy to change OpenAI’s corporate structure, even if it’s designed to make investors and employees happy.

Tax experts have said that OpenAI’s corporate structure appeared to be set up to give the tax-exempt nonprofit entity full control of the for-profit entities that the organization created as its growth started to take off.

In 2016, the goal of OpenAI’s founders — a group that included Altman and Tesla CEO Elon Musk — was to “advance digital intelligence in the way that is most likely to benefit humanity as a whole, unconstrained by a need to generate financial return.”





A few years later, the organization realized it needed billions of dollars to finance the computing power required to develop AI technologies. “We want to increase our ability to raise capital while still serving our mission, and no pre-existing legal structure we know of strikes the right balance,” wrote co-founders Sutskever and Greg Brockman in 2019.

So they set up a new for-profit corporation with a “cap” on the amount of profits that investors or employees could reap and put the nonprofit and its board in charge of the new entity.

Any “excess” profit would go back to the nonprofit, Brockman and Sutskever explained, though in practice little money has gone back to the nonprofit in recent years. Brockman has been on leave since August, leaving Altman one of the few early leaders still at the helm.

In research published in February, Ellen P. Aprill, professor emerita of tax law at Loyola Marymount University, noted that OpenAI’s structure appeared to be “painstakingly” designed to protect its nonprofit status.

All of its subsidiary corporations are governed or managed by the nonprofit and its board, and OpenAI says it warns investors that they may never receive a return.

However, Aprill and her colleagues pointed to Altman’s ouster and reinstatement as evidence that the nonprofit’s board may not be meaningfully in charge. “Unless the members of the board fulfill their fiduciary duties... even the most carefully thought-out structures are for naught,” Aprill and her co-authors wrote.





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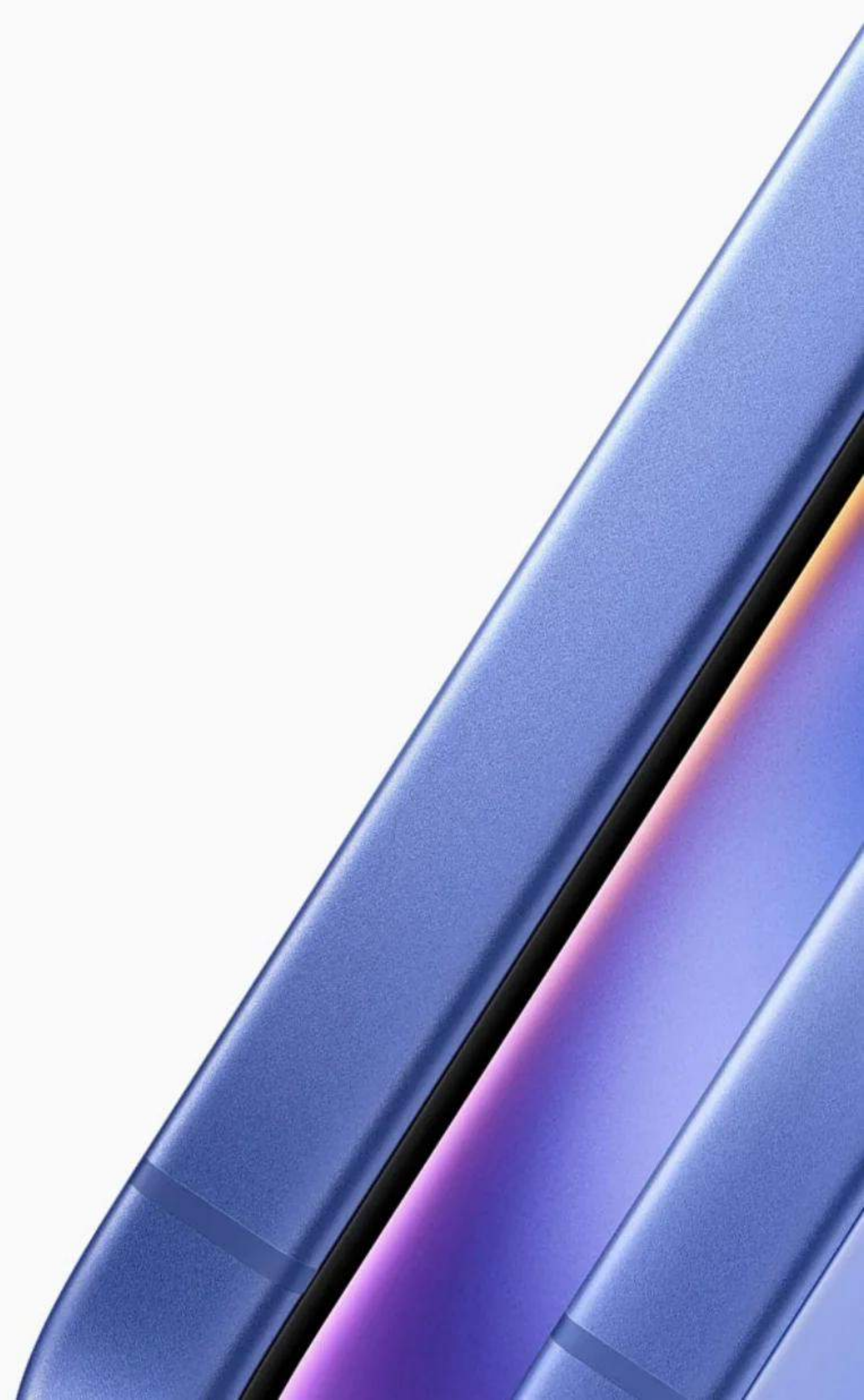
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Camera Control

NEW ADVANCED FEATURES FOR
MASTERING PHOTOGRAPHY PRODUCTION





The iPhone 16 and 16 Pro models have once again revolutionized smartphone photography, continuing Apple's legacy of pushing the boundaries of what a camera can do. Among the many impressive updates to this year's lineup, one feature stands out as a game-changer: the new Camera Control, making capturing photos and videos more accessible than ever.

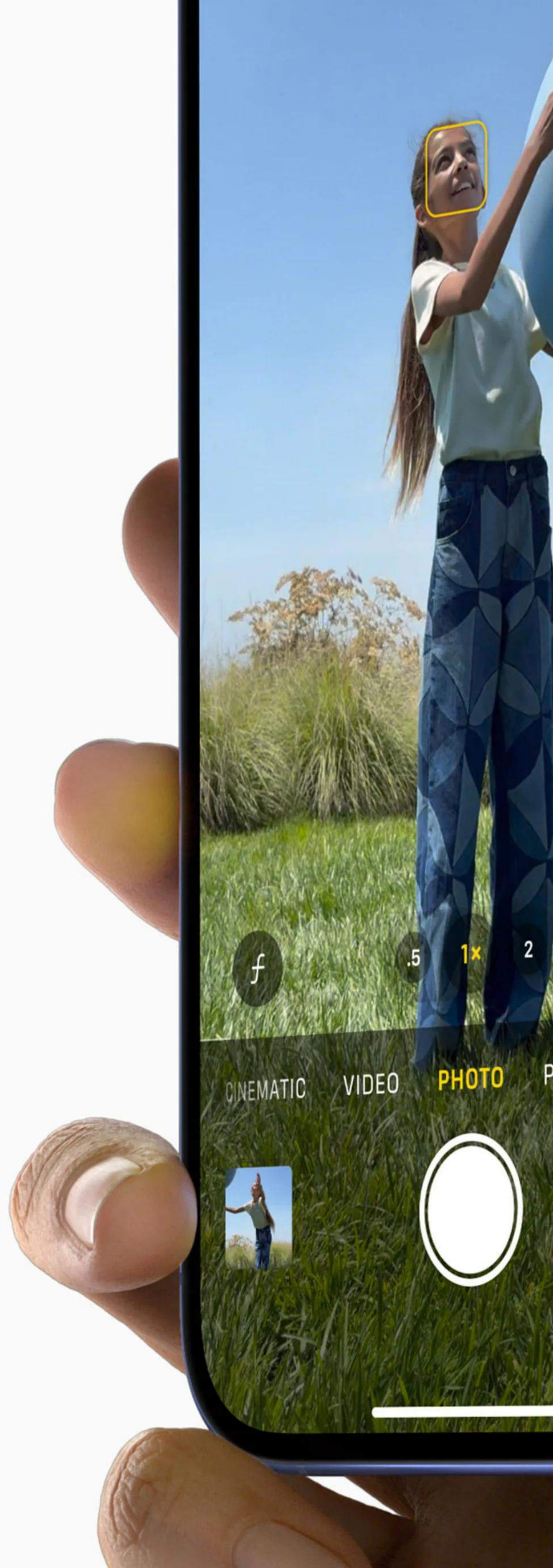


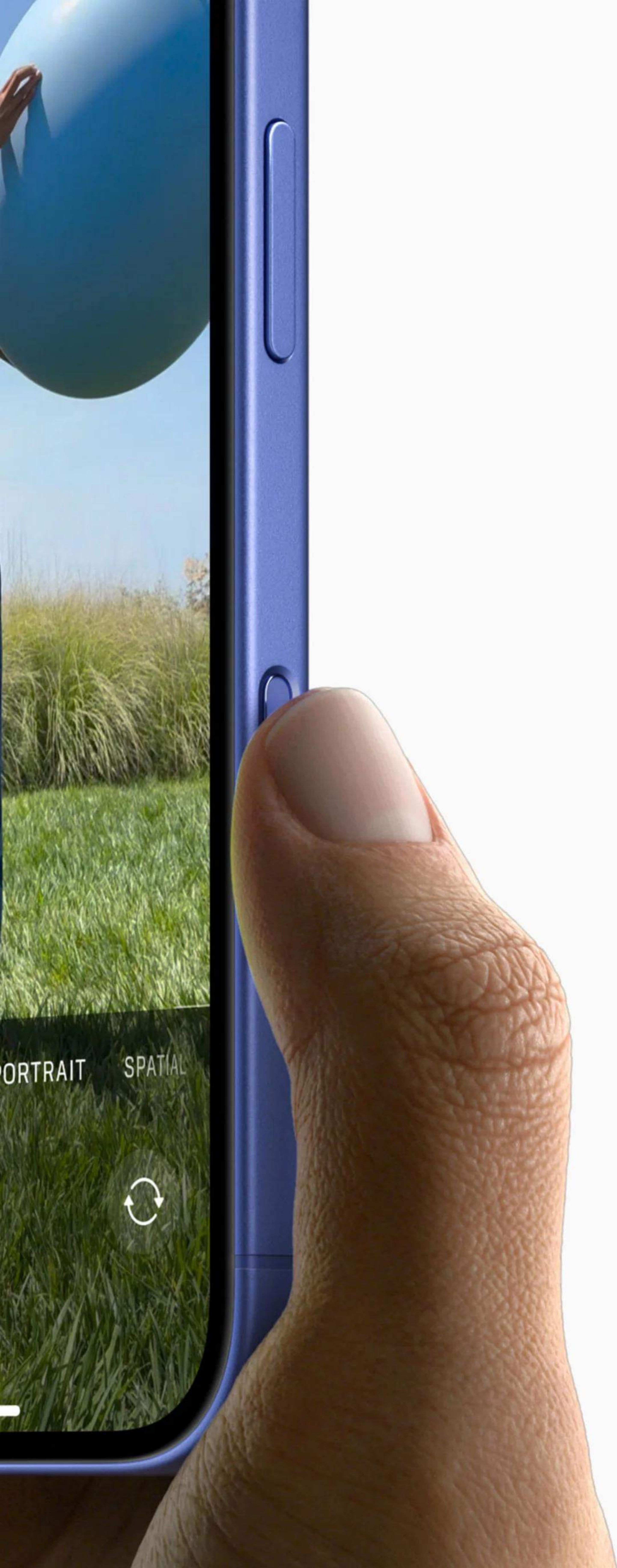


INTRODUCING CAMERA CONTROL

At the core of the iPhone 16's photographic innovations lies the Camera Control, a dedicated hardware feature that merges a traditional button with touch-sensitive technology.

Located two-thirds of the way down the right edge of the iPhone 16 and 16 Pro models, this button differs from any other physical control on the device. While it sits flush with the phone's surface, it's far more than just a basic camera shutter. The Camera Control operates in two ways: as a mechanical button that can be pressed to trigger actions like snapping a photo or recording a video and as a capacitive slider that allows for smooth, precise, real-time adjustments. This hybrid approach gives users control over their camera, making it easy to quickly switch between settings like zoom,



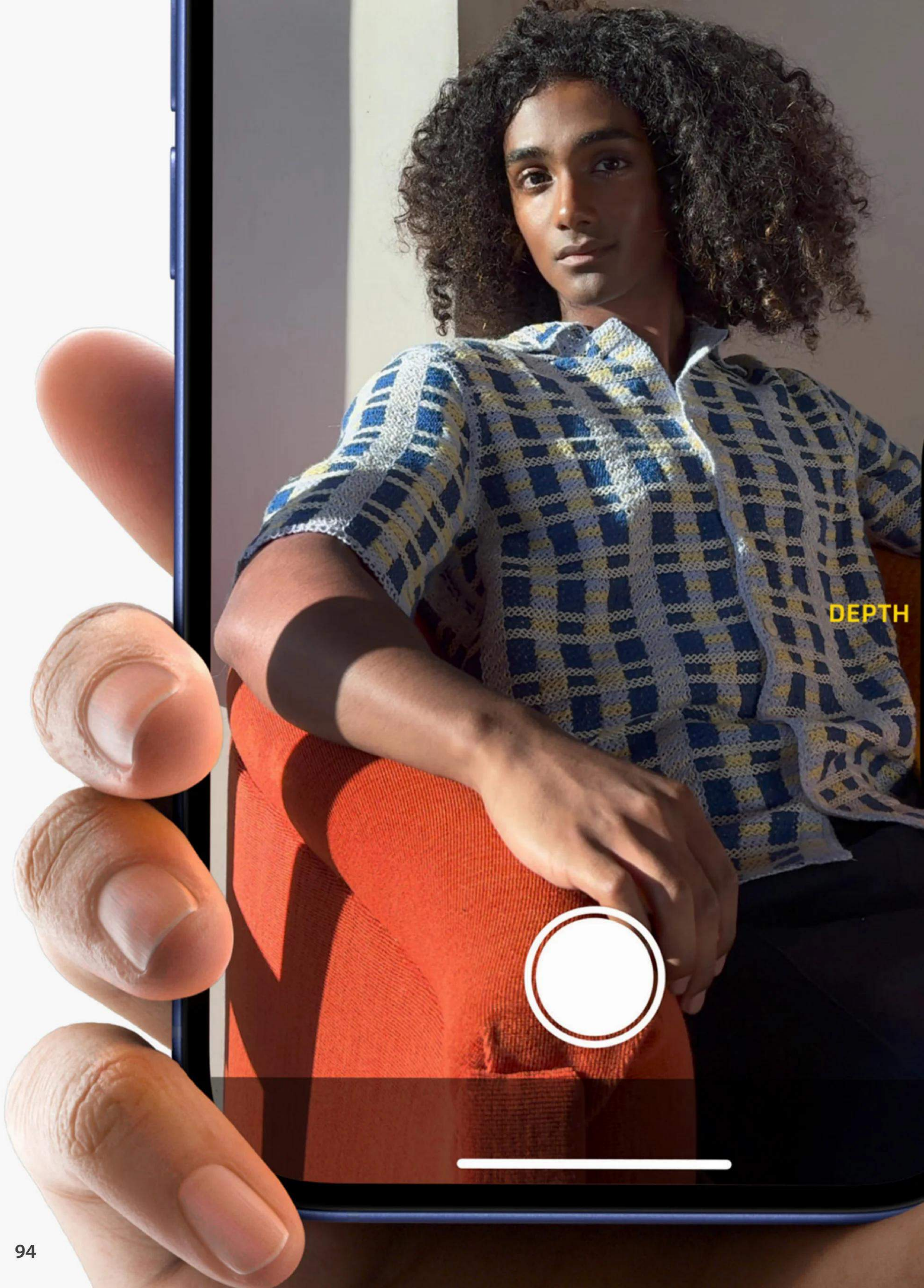


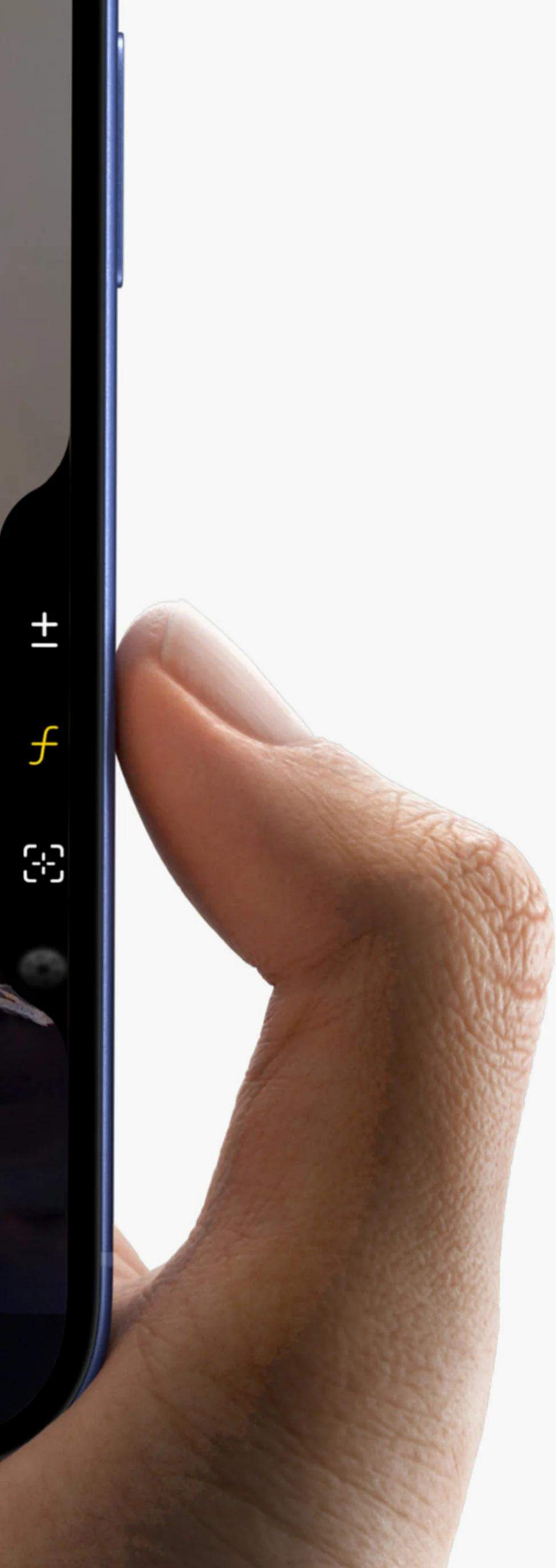
exposure, depth, and photographic styles. The button's location and flush design also prevent accidental triggers, a common problem with previous iPhone models, **where unwanted pocket photos were too frequent.**

For beginners, the **Camera Control might feel slightly unfamiliar at first.** But once you get used to its touch-sensitive functionality, you'll find that it offers an incredibly versatile way to interact with the iPhone's camera, making it more intuitive and less reliant on on-screen icons. The first thing to understand is how to launch the camera. From standby mode, a simple press of the Camera Control will immediately open the camera app. You can customize this feature to require a double-click, a handy way to avoid accidentally launching the camera. Once the camera app is open, the **Camera Control becomes the primary tool**





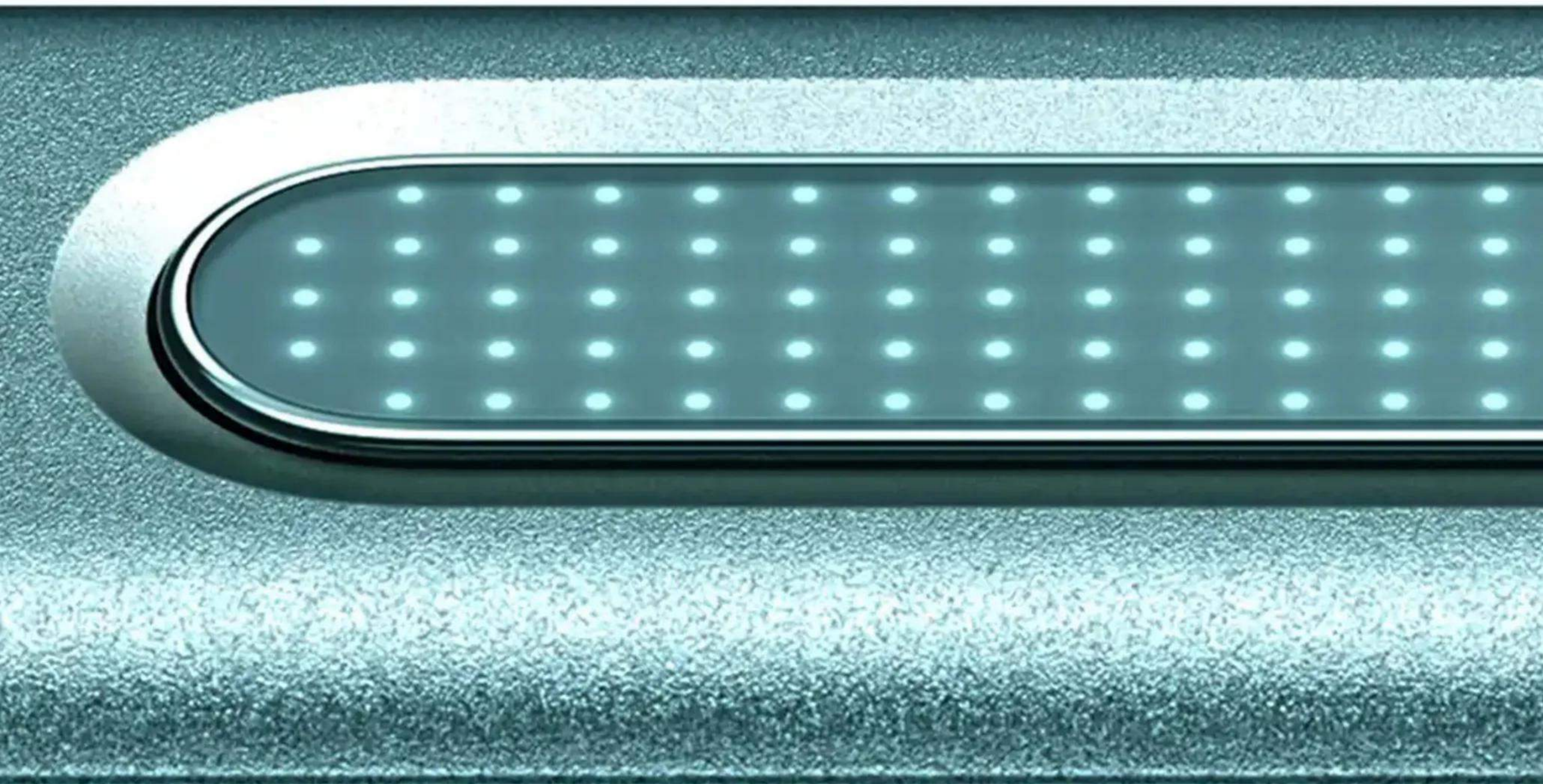


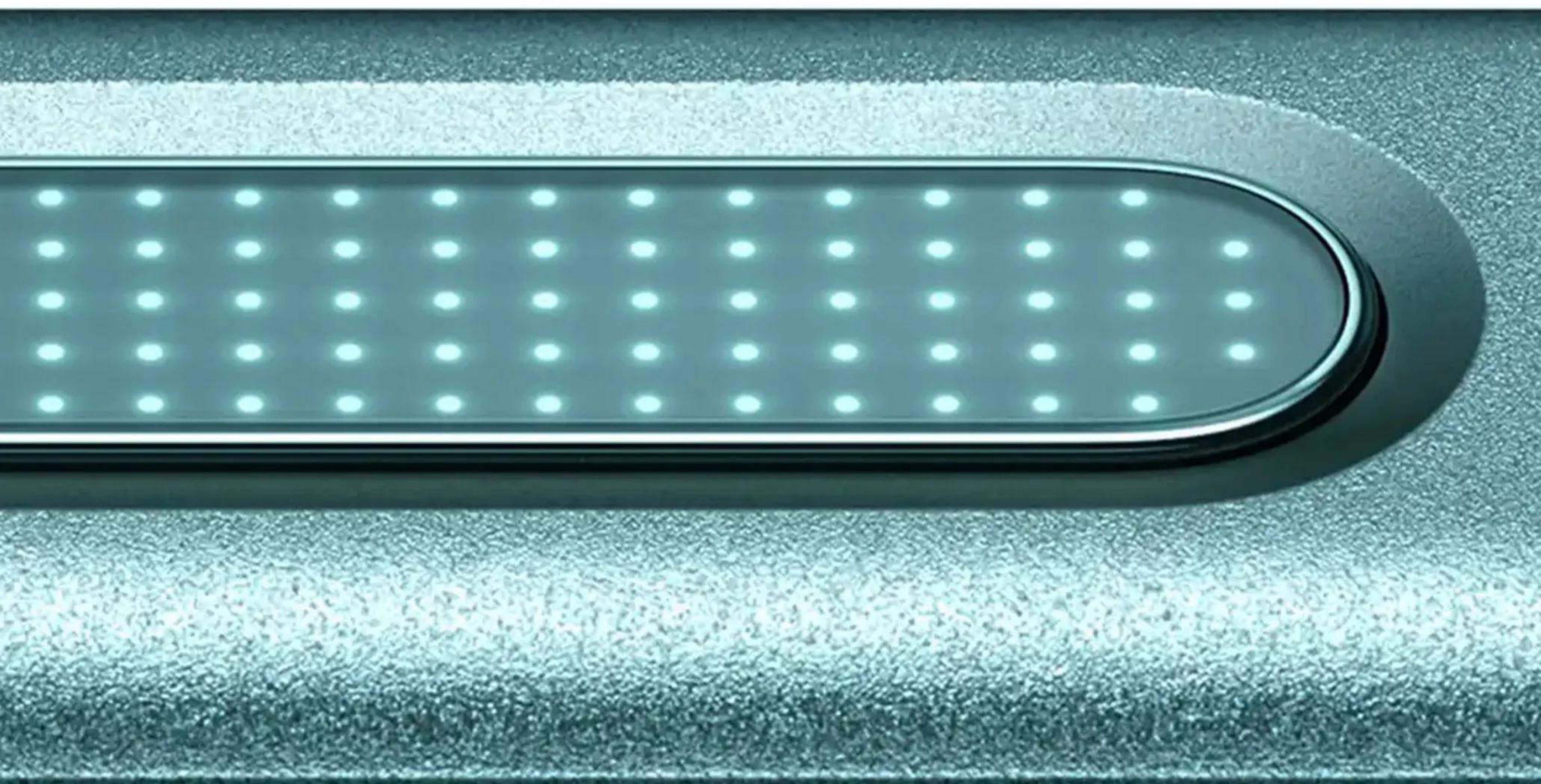


for taking photos and videos. A single press will capture a still image, while a press-and-hold gesture will begin recording a video. The recording stops the moment you release the button, ensuring you have complete control over when to start and stop filming.

The real magic of the **Camera Control** lies in its **sliding functionality**. By gently sliding your finger across the button, you can zoom in and out, adjust exposure, or change the depth of field without ever having to tap on the screen. This makes it much easier to focus on the subject you're capturing rather than being distracted by the phone's interface. For instance, if you're trying to zoom in on a distant object, the smooth sliding motion gives you finer control over the zoom level, allowing you to frame your shot precisely. Additionally, the slider will enable you to switch between different camera lenses—such as the standard wide-angle, ultra-wide, or telephoto lenses—by sliding your finger instead of cycling through on-screen icons.

One of the coolest features of the Camera Control is **how it interacts with photographic styles**. As you swipe your finger across the button, you can cycle through various photographic styles, such as Vibrant, Luminous, Quiet, or Cosy. Each style alters the image's aesthetic in subtle yet effective ways, and the live preview feature lets you see exactly how the style will affect your photo before you even press the shutter. Unlike filters, which apply a uniform change to the entire image, photographic styles are more innovative and dynamic, adjusting individual elements of the photo—like skin tones, highlights, and shadows—while keeping the overall balance intact.









NEW PHOTOGRAPHY CAPABILITIES

The iPhone 16 Pro also brings significant improvements to night photography. With larger sensors and enhanced image processing, these phones excel in low-light environments. When Night Mode is enabled, the iPhone 16 captures multiple exposures over a few seconds and blends them to create a well-lit, detailed final image. You might be holding your phone still for longer, but the result is often worth it: bright, sharp photos that look like they were taken in perfect lighting conditions. The Camera Control button plays a crucial role in night photography as well.

In Night Mode, you can use the slider to adjust the exposure time, sometimes extending it for up to 30 seconds. This is ideal for capturing scenes with very little light, such as a starry sky or a dimly lit street. Place your iPhone on a stable surface or use a tripod to avoid motion blur during the long exposure for best results. If you want to take your low-light photography to the next level, consider experimenting with manual exposure settings. The Camera Control slider allows you to fine-tune the brightness of your shot by adjusting the exposure value, helping you avoid overexposed highlights or underexposed shadows. This level of control is beneficial for night-time cityscapes, where bright lights and dark areas coexist in the same frame.

Long-exposure photography is one of the most exciting techniques to experiment with on the iPhone 16. This technique is perfect for capturing motion in still images, whether it's the blur of water flowing down a waterfall or the trails left by car headlights at night. To achieve





these effects, you can use the Camera Control to manually adjust the exposure time, allowing more light to hit the sensor and creating that smooth, dreamy effect associated with long exposures. A steady hand is vital to get the most out of long-exposure photography. Using a tripod or stabilizing your iPhone on a flat surface will help you avoid any unwanted camera shake that could ruin your shot. The Camera Control slider can adjust the exposure time to the desired length, giving you complete control over how much light is captured.

The iPhone 16 Pro introduces a significant breakthrough in smartphone video recording: **4K video at 120 frames per second (fps) in Dolby Vision**. This high frame rate, combined with the superior color accuracy of Dolby Vision HDR, makes it possible to capture ultra-smooth videos with stunning detail and dynamic range. Whether filming a fast-moving subject or creating slow-motion footage, the iPhone 16 Pro's video capabilities are unmatched. One of the best features of 4K120fps video is the ability to adjust playback speed after you've captured the footage. In the Photos app, you can slow down or speed up different parts of your video, creating dramatic slow-motion sequences or fast-paced action shots. This flexibility is perfect for content creators looking to add a cinematic flair to their videos.

Recording in 4K120fps Dolby Vision can generate large file sizes, but the **iPhone 16 Pro has you covered with support for external storage**. By connecting an external SSD, you can record ProRes videos directly to your storage



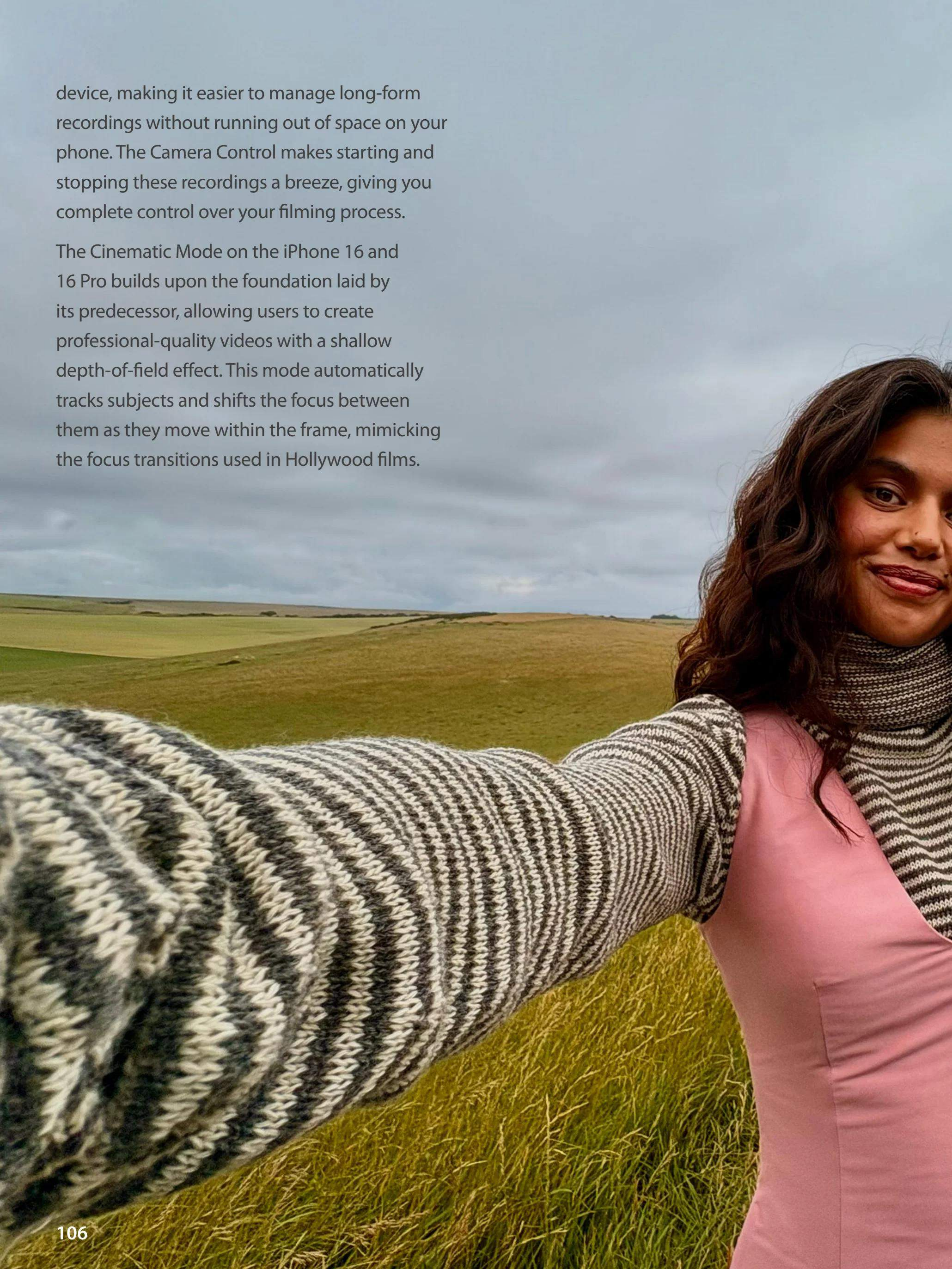






device, making it easier to manage long-form recordings without running out of space on your phone. The Camera Control makes starting and stopping these recordings a breeze, giving you complete control over your filming process.

The Cinematic Mode on the iPhone 16 and 16 Pro builds upon the foundation laid by its predecessor, allowing users to create professional-quality videos with a shallow depth-of-field effect. This mode automatically tracks subjects and shifts the focus between them as they move within the frame, mimicking the focus transitions used in Hollywood films.





Cinematic Mode is exceptional on the iPhone

16. It can adjust focus and depth of field even after recording the video. This means you can fine-tune your footage during post-production, changing which subject is in focus or adjusting the background's blur to suit your scene's mood. The Camera Control slider is essential for real-time adjustments while filming in Cinematic Mode. As you swipe your finger across the control, you can manually change the focus point or adjust the depth of field to achieve the desired effect. This gives you even more creative control over your videos, helping you easily capture film-like sequences.









A NEW DIMENSION OF PHOTOGRAPHY

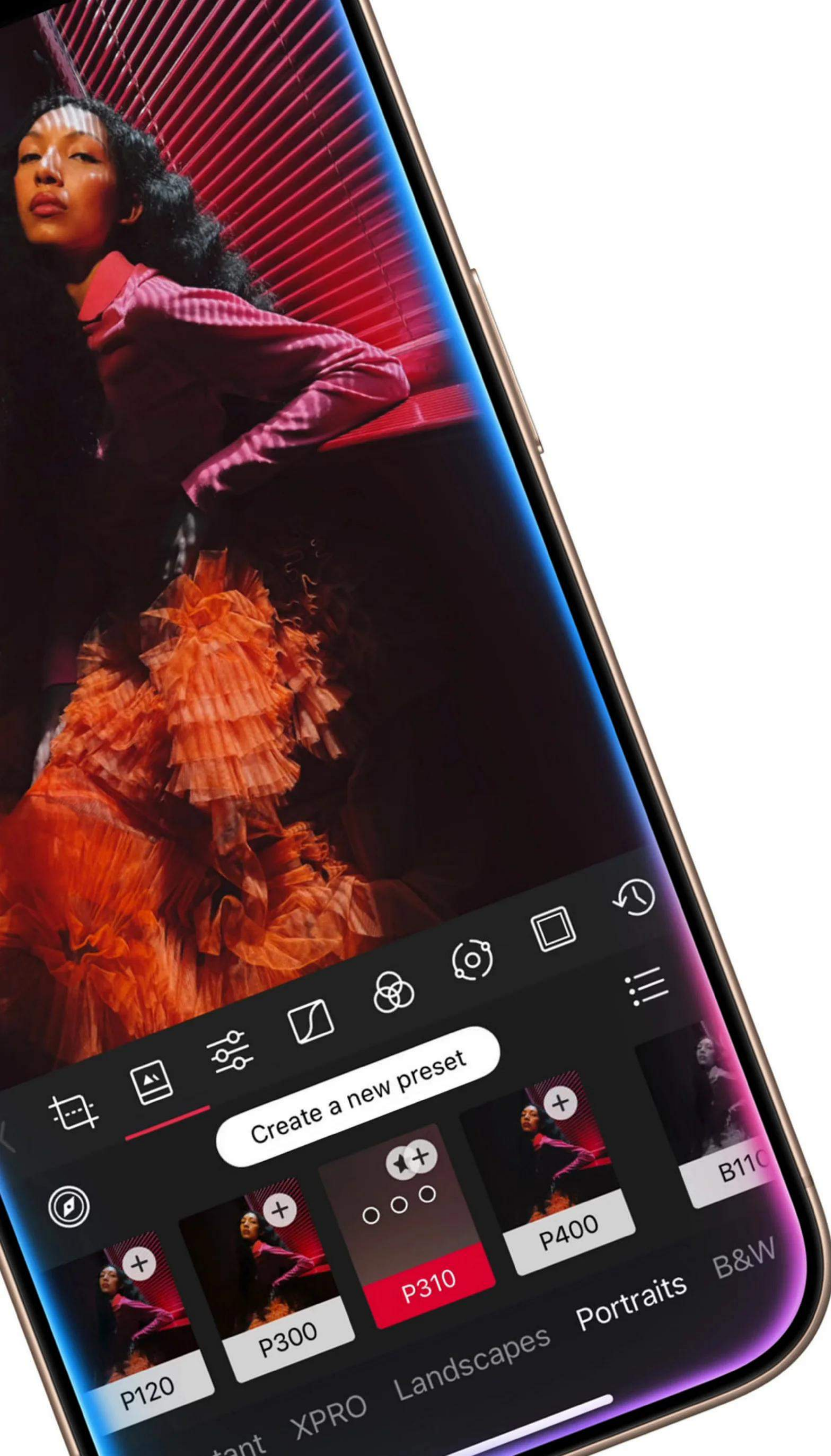
One of the most exciting new features of the **iPhone 16 Pro is the introduction of Spatial Photos.** These images capture a sense of depth, allowing them to be viewed in three dimensions on Apple's Vision Pro headset. While this feature is still relatively new, it holds incredible potential for creating immersive, 3D-like memories beyond traditional photography. Taking Spatial Photos on the iPhone 16 Pro is as simple as using the standard camera modes, but with a few extra considerations to remember. The key to creating a truly immersive Spatial Photo is how you frame your subjects. Positioning your main subject in the foreground while allowing the background elements to exist in different planes of depth will enable you to maximize the 3D effect when viewed later on compatible devices such as the Apple Vision Pro. One of the most remarkable aspects of Spatial Photos is how they allow you to relive memories with an almost tangible sense of depth. Whether you're capturing a family gathering or a scenic landscape, these photos give you the feeling that you're stepping back into the moment, with layers of depth that make each scene feel lifelike. The iPhone 16 Pro's advanced camera system, which includes the 48MP Fusion Camera and the Ultra-Wide lens, ensures that your Spatial Photos will be rich in detail and dynamic in range, making them perfect for this new immersive format.

A PROFESSIONAL TOOL

The iPhone 16 Pro's camera system is nothing short of extraordinary. It includes a 48MP Fusion camera, which leverages a faster, more efficient quad-pixel sensor for zero shutter lag and improved performance in low-light conditions. This sensor reads data twice as fast as its predecessor, making it ideal for capturing high-quality photos with 48MP resolution in ProRAW or HEIF formats. The Ultra-Wide camera has also been upgraded with a 48MP sensor that includes autofocus, allowing you to capture stunning wide-angle shots with exceptional clarity. This is particularly useful for macro photography, where you can get close to your subject while retaining sharp detail across the entire image. Whether you're photographing landscapes, architecture, or intimate close-ups, the iPhone 16 Pro's Ultra-Wide camera offers unparalleled versatility. Another significant advancement in the iPhone 16 Pro's camera system is the 5x Telephoto lens, now available on both the standard Pro and the Pro Max models. This telephoto lens captures distant subjects with incredible detail and minimal distortion. Whether photographing wildlife, sports events, or concerts, the 5x Telephoto lens brings you closer to the action without compromising image quality.

For video professionals, the **iPhone 16 Pro's support for ProRes video recording** is a significant boon. ProRes is a high-quality video format used by professionals in the film and television industry because it maintains the highest possible image quality while still being manageable for editing. With the iPhone 16 Pro, you can now record ProRes videos at up

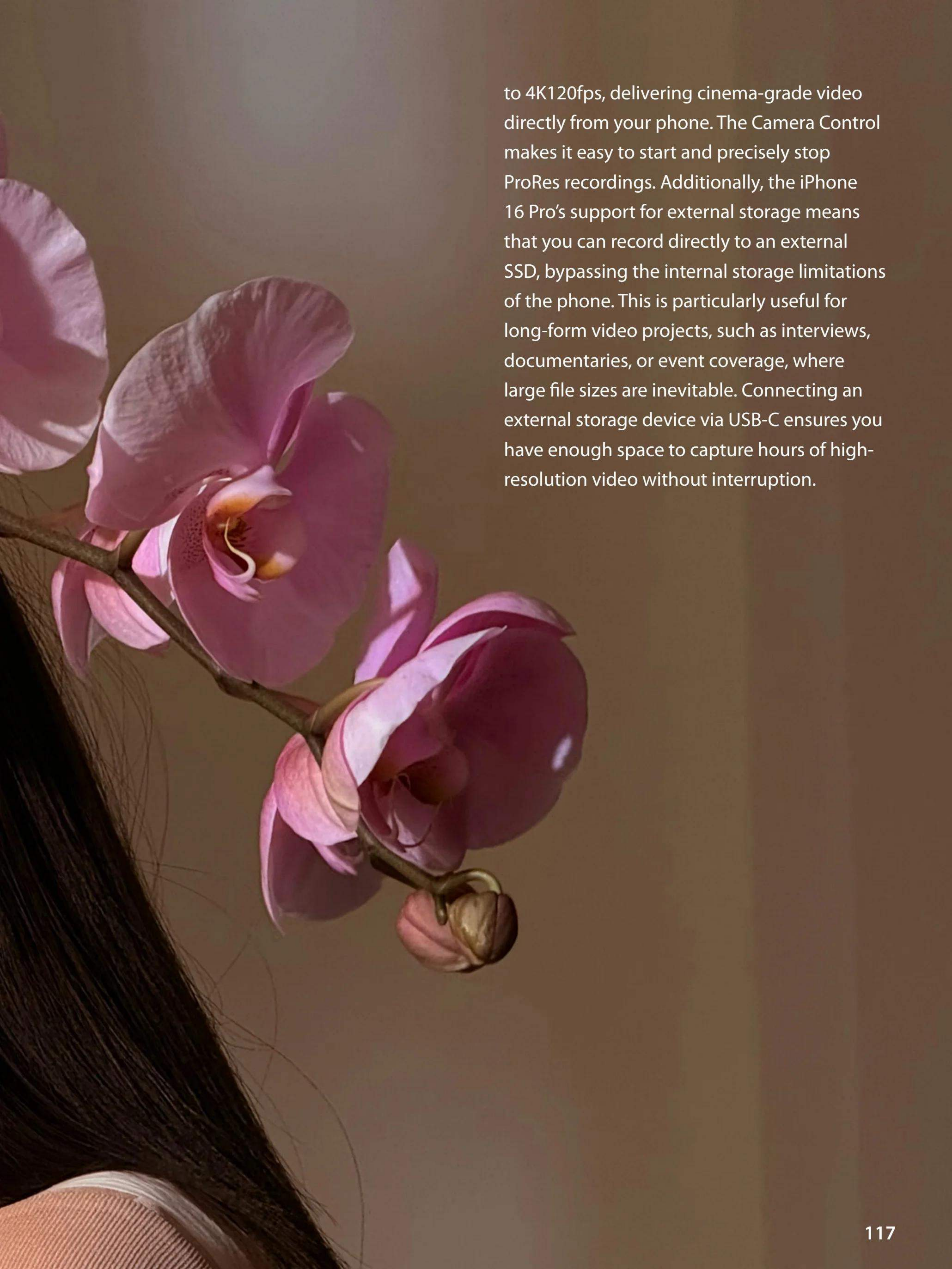








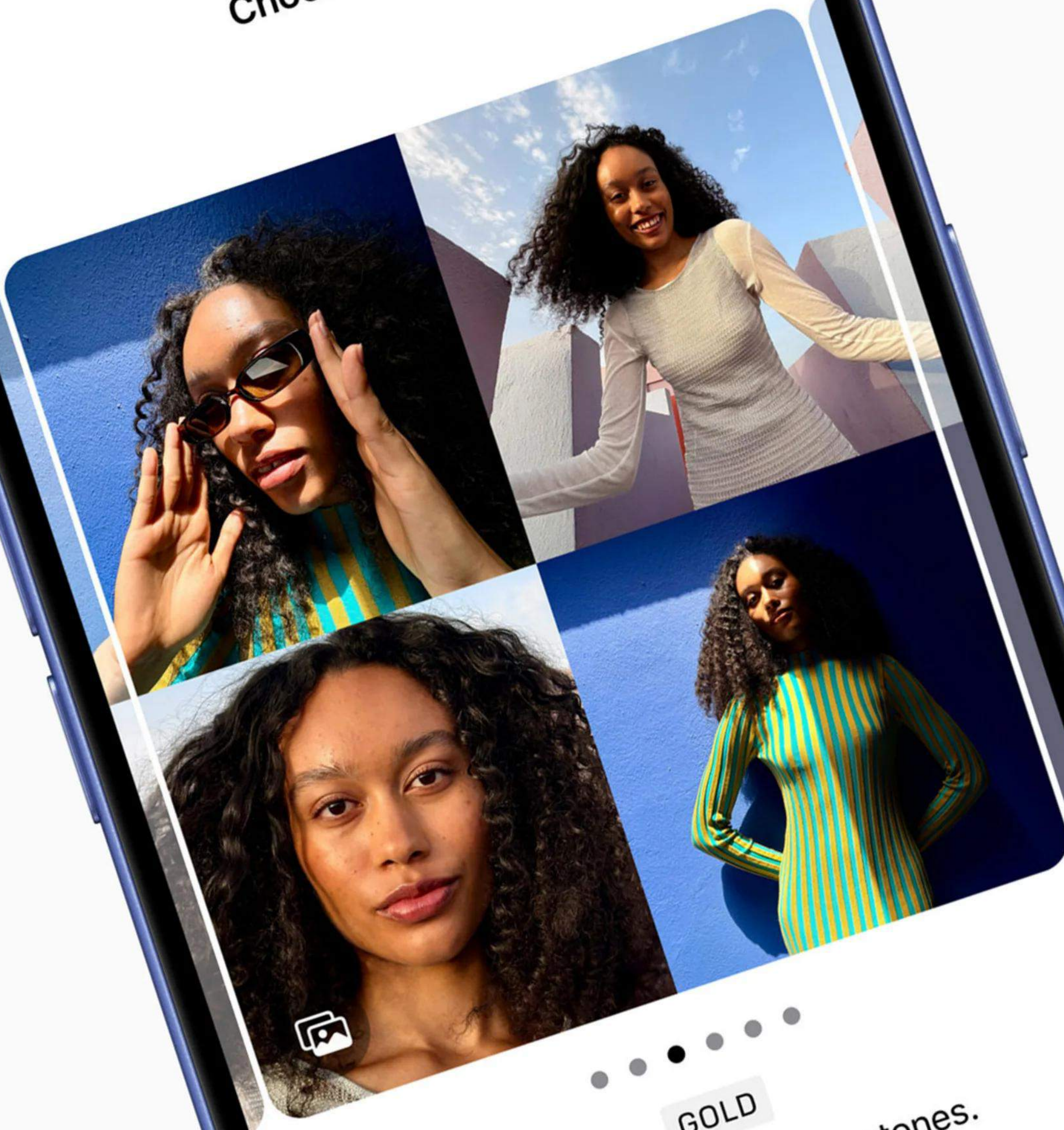




to 4K120fps, delivering cinema-grade video directly from your phone. The Camera Control makes it easy to start and precisely stop ProRes recordings. Additionally, the iPhone 16 Pro's support for external storage means that you can record directly to an external SSD, bypassing the internal storage limitations of the phone. This is particularly useful for long-form video projects, such as interviews, documentaries, or event coverage, where large file sizes are inevitable. Connecting an external storage device via USB-C ensures you have enough space to capture hours of high-resolution video without interruption.

9:41

Choose Style



GOLD

Accentuates gold undertones.



Continue



Done

Cancel

STYLES

GOLD

Clean Up

AUDIO IMPROVEMENTS

Great visuals are only part of the equation for creating professional-quality content. The iPhone 16 Pro models have four new studio-quality microphones that offer exceptional sound recording capabilities. These mics are designed to capture true-to-life audio, making your videos sound as good as they look.

Audio Mix is a standout feature for audio recording **which uses machine learning algorithms to separate background sounds from speech.** This allows you to adjust the focus of your audio during post-production, so you can prioritize the voice of the person on camera or highlight the ambient sounds in the background. Audio Mix lets you fine-tune the audio to create the perfect balance, whether you're recording a vlog, an interview, or a music performance.





PHOTOGRAPHIC STYLES

Photographic Styles on the iPhone 16 and 16 Pro allow users to personalize their photos' look and feel in ways beyond basic filters. While filters apply a uniform effect across the entire image, Photographic Styles uses Apple's advanced computational photography algorithms to adjust only specific image elements, such as skin tones, shadows, and highlights. With the Camera Control, you can quickly switch between Photographic Styles, such as Vibrant, Luminous, Quiet, or Cosy, by sliding your finger across the control. Each style offers a unique aesthetic, and the live preview feature lets you see how the image will look in real-time before you take the shot. This makes it easier to experiment with different styles and find the perfect one for your subject.



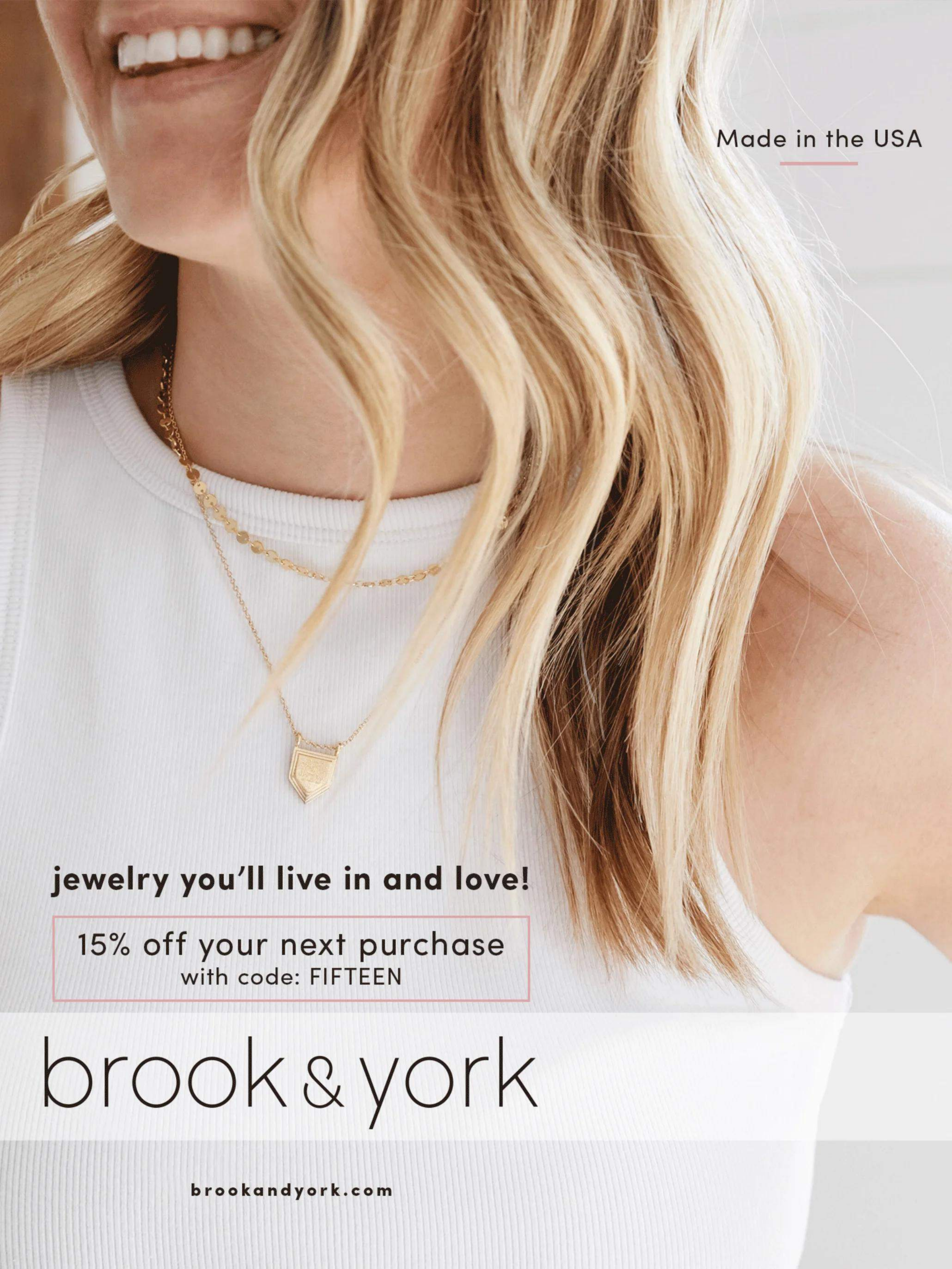


*Whether you're a
seasoned professional or
just starting to explore
the world of photography
and video, the iPhone
16 has the tools to help
you elevate your work.*



A woman with long blonde hair, wearing a shiny, iridescent blue dress, stands in the foreground on the left. She is looking towards the right. The background is a dimly lit room with several pool tables. The pool tables have green felt and dark wooden frames. The floor is made of dark tiles with some red and white checkered patterns. The lighting is low, creating a moody atmosphere. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

By mastering the new Camera Control and experimenting with features like Cinematic Mode, night photography, and long-exposure shots, you'll be able to capture images and videos that rival those taken with traditional cameras. We can't wait to see what comes next to the iPhone camera!



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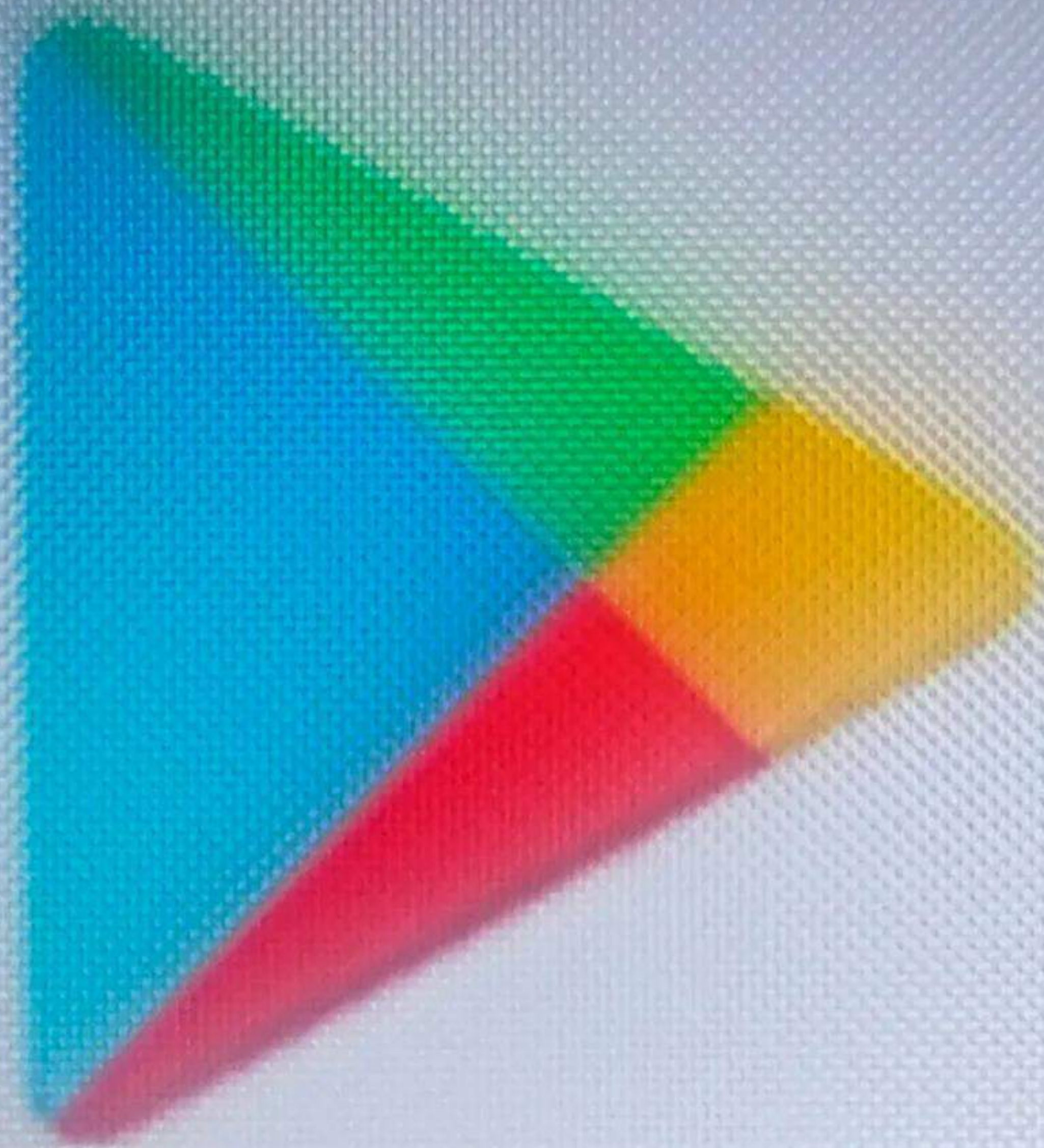


**EPIC GAMES SUES
GOOGLE AND
SAMSUNG OVER
PHONE SETTINGS,
ACCUSING THEM
OF VIOLATING
ANTITRUST LAWS**

Video game maker Epic Games sued Google and Samsung this week, accusing the tech companies of coordinating to block third-party competition in application distribution on Samsung devices.

At issue is Samsung's "Auto Blocker" feature, which only allows for apps from authorized sources, such as the Samsung Galaxy Store or Google Play Store, to be installed. The feature is turned on by default but can be changed in a phone's settings. The tool prevents the installation of applications from unauthorized sources and blocks "malicious activity," according to Samsung.

In a lawsuit filed in San Francisco federal court — Epic's second against Google — the company said Auto Blocker "is virtually guaranteed to entrench Google's dominance over Android app distribution." Epic, developer of the popular game "Fortnite," filed the suit to prevent Google from "negating the long overdue promise of competition in the Android App Distribution Market," according to the complaint.



Play Store

"Allowing this coordinated illegal anti-competitive dealing to proceed hurts developers and consumers and undermines both the jury's verdict and regulatory and legislative progress around the world," Epic Games said in a post on its website.

Google did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Samsung said it "actively fosters market competition, enhances consumer choice, and conducts its operations fairly."

"The features integrated into our devices are designed in accordance with Samsung's core principles of security, privacy, and user control, and we remain fully committed to safeguarding users' personal data. Users have the choice to disable Auto Blocker at any time," Samsung said, adding that it plans to "vigorously contest Epic Game's baseless claims."



18:14

51%



Epic Games

Epic Games, Inc.
Âge requis 12+

#Action et aventure

3.5

Masterpiece

Monde virtuel

Son

Protagonist



celui-ci semble d'ores et déjà défrayer la chronique.



Nouveautés

FORTNITE - Menez une guerre cosmique dans Fortnite Chapitre 2 - Saison 7 : Invasion. La professeur Slone a mobilisé les troupes de l'IO pour repousser ...

Description

Installez l'application Epic Games pour télécharger Fortnite et Battle Breakers sur Android.

8,133 people are downloading this game right now.

Installer

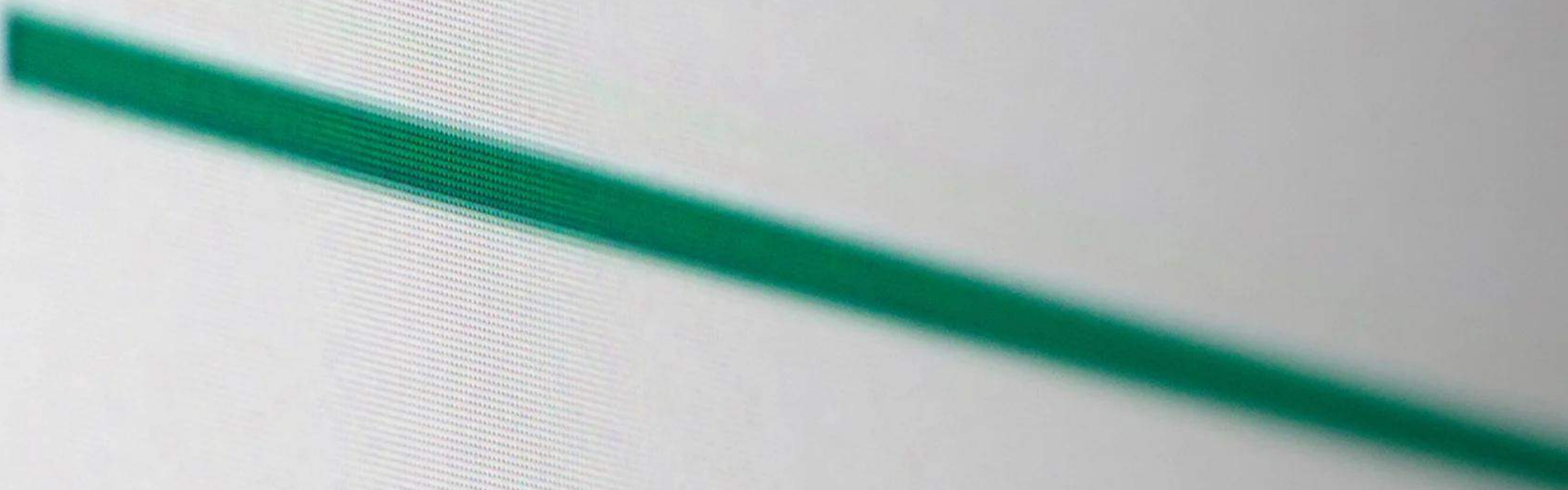






Fortnite

Installing...



Epic launched its Epic Games Store on iPhones in the European Union and on Android devices worldwide in August. The company claims that it now takes “an exceptionally onerous 21-step process” to download a third-party app outside of the Google Play Store or the Samsung Galaxy Store. But a support page on Epic’s website shows a four-step process to remove the Auto Blocker setting.

Epic won its first antitrust lawsuit against Google in December after a jury found that Google’s Android app store had been protected by anti-competitive barriers that damaged smartphone consumers and software developers.

The game maker says the “Auto Blocker” feature was intentionally crafted in coordination with Google to preemptively undermine the jury’s verdict in that case.

“Literally no store can compete with the incumbents when disadvantaged in this way,” Epic Games CEO Tim Sweeney said on X. “To have true competition, all reputable stores and apps must be free to compete on a level playing field.”



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TOKYO 2020



**JAPANESE
SPONSORS TOYOTA,
BRIDGESTONE AND
PANASONIC END
OLYMPIC CONTRACTS**

The logo for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics, featuring a stylized sunburst or flame design in white and gold.

TOKYO
PARALYMPICS

The International Olympic Committee's three major Japanese sponsors — Toyota, Panasonic and Bridgestone — are terminating their contracts.

This leaves the IOC without a Japanese sponsor with the focus now expected to shift to the Middle East and India for new sponsorship income.

Japanese sponsors have turned away from the Olympics, likely related to the one-year delay in holding the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. The delay reduced sponsors' visibility with fans not allowed to attend competition venues, increased costs, and unearthed a myriad of corruption scandals around the Games.

The three are among 15 of the so-called TOP Olympic sponsors. The 15 paid a total of more than \$2 billion to the IOC in the last four-year Olympic cycle.

Toyota Motor Corp. confirmed it would not not renew its sponsorship after the Paris Games, which closed in August.



Worldwide Olympic Partner



BRIDGESTONE



Chairman Akio Toyoda told a meeting of U.S. dealerships last month that the IOC's goals didn't match the automaker's vision.

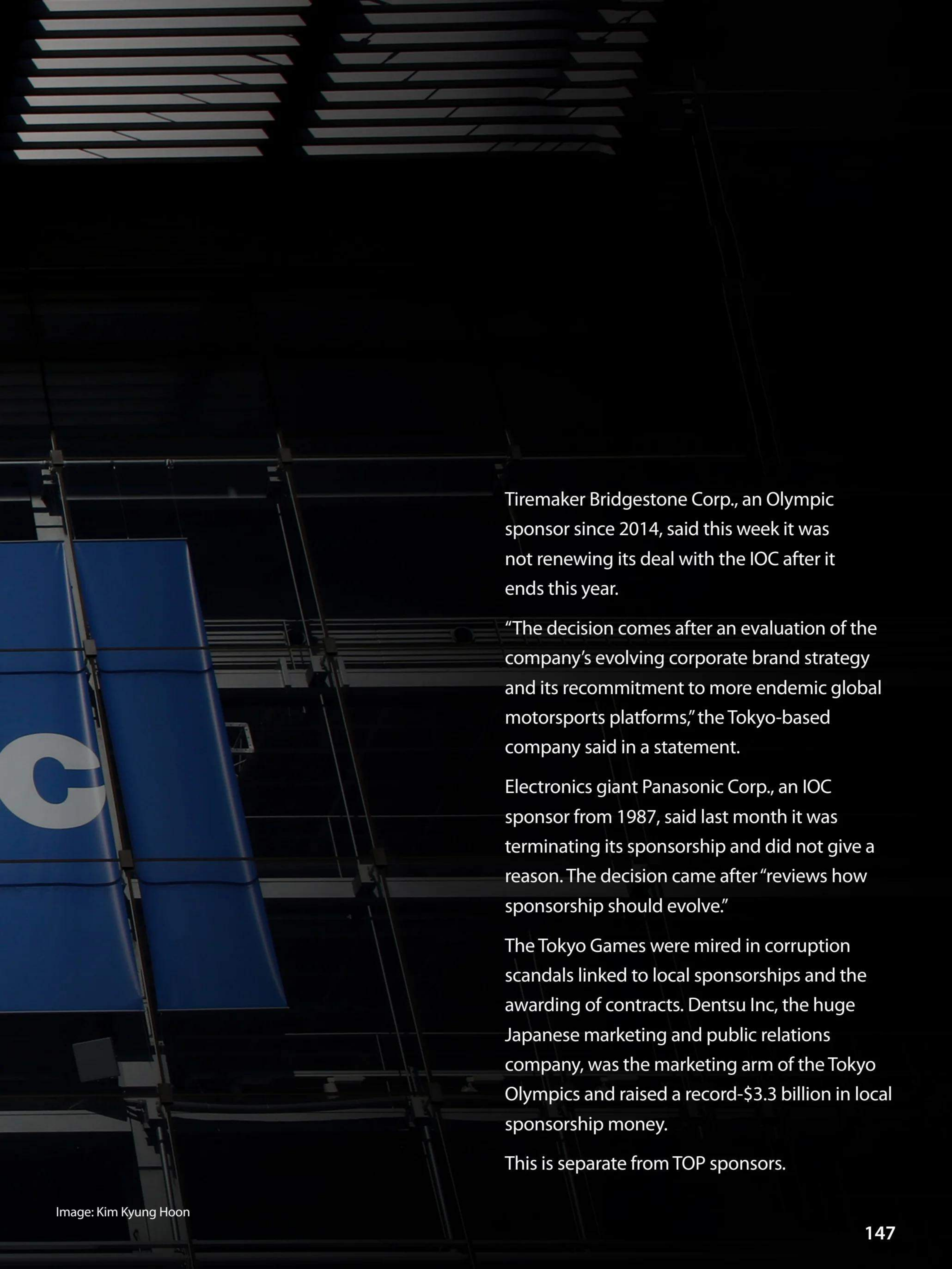
"Honestly, I'm not sure they (IOC) are truly focused on putting people first. For me, the Olympics should simply be about watching athletes from all walks of life with all types of challenges achieve their impossible," Toyoda said in English.

Toyoda promised to continue to financially support individual Olympic and Paralympic athletes, as well as the Paralympics Games.

Toyota had a contract reported to be valued at \$835 million, the IOC's largest when it was announced in 2015. It included four Olympics beginning with the Pyeongchang 2018 Winter Games in South Korea and ran through to the just-completed Paris Olympics and Paralympics.

The IOC TOP sponsors are: ABInBev, Airbnb, Alibaba, Allianz, Atos, Bridgestone, Coca-Cola, Deloitte, Intel, Omega, Panasonic, P&G, Samsung, Toyota, and Visa.





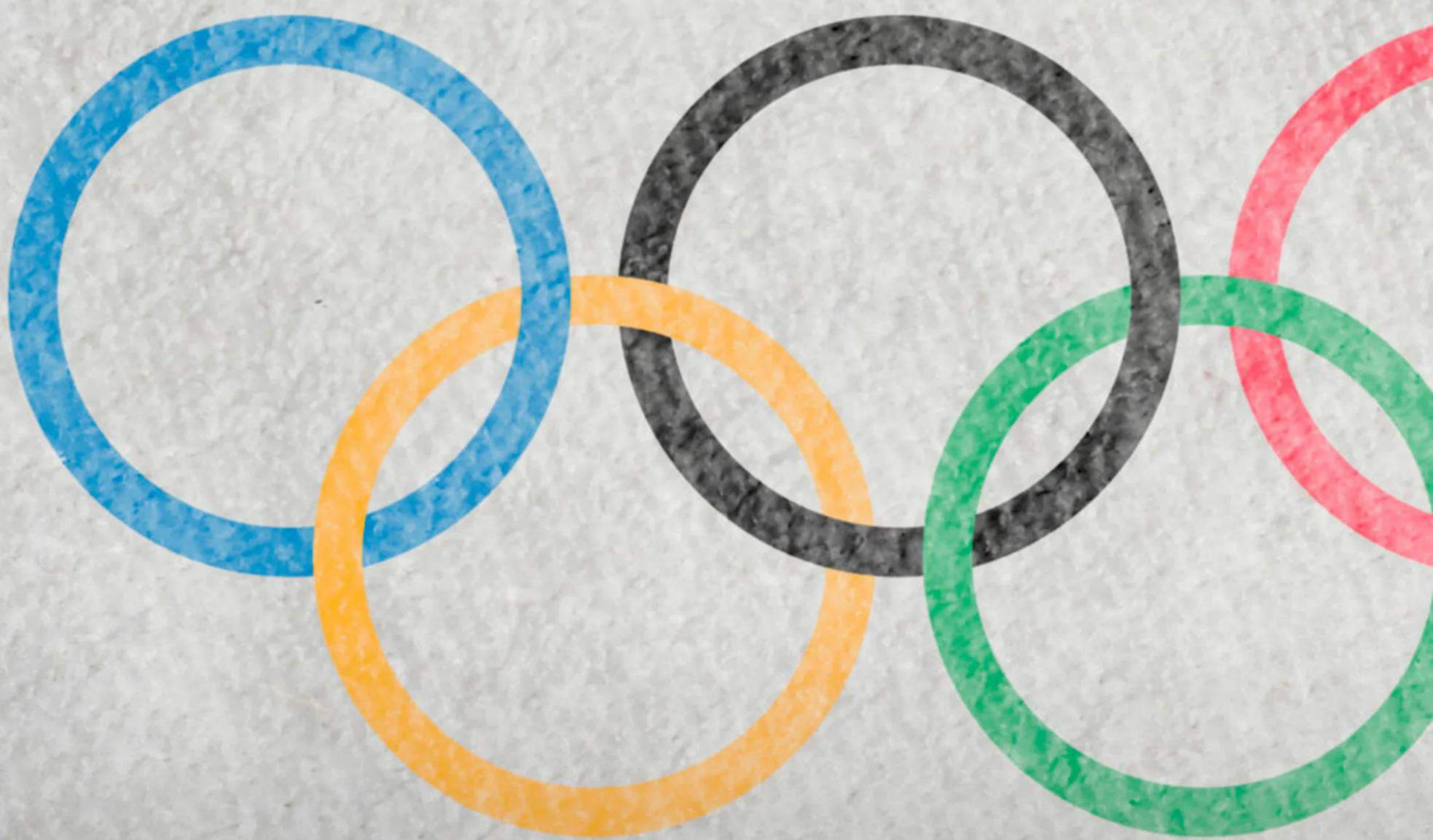
Tiremaker Bridgestone Corp., an Olympic sponsor since 2014, said this week it was not renewing its deal with the IOC after it ends this year.

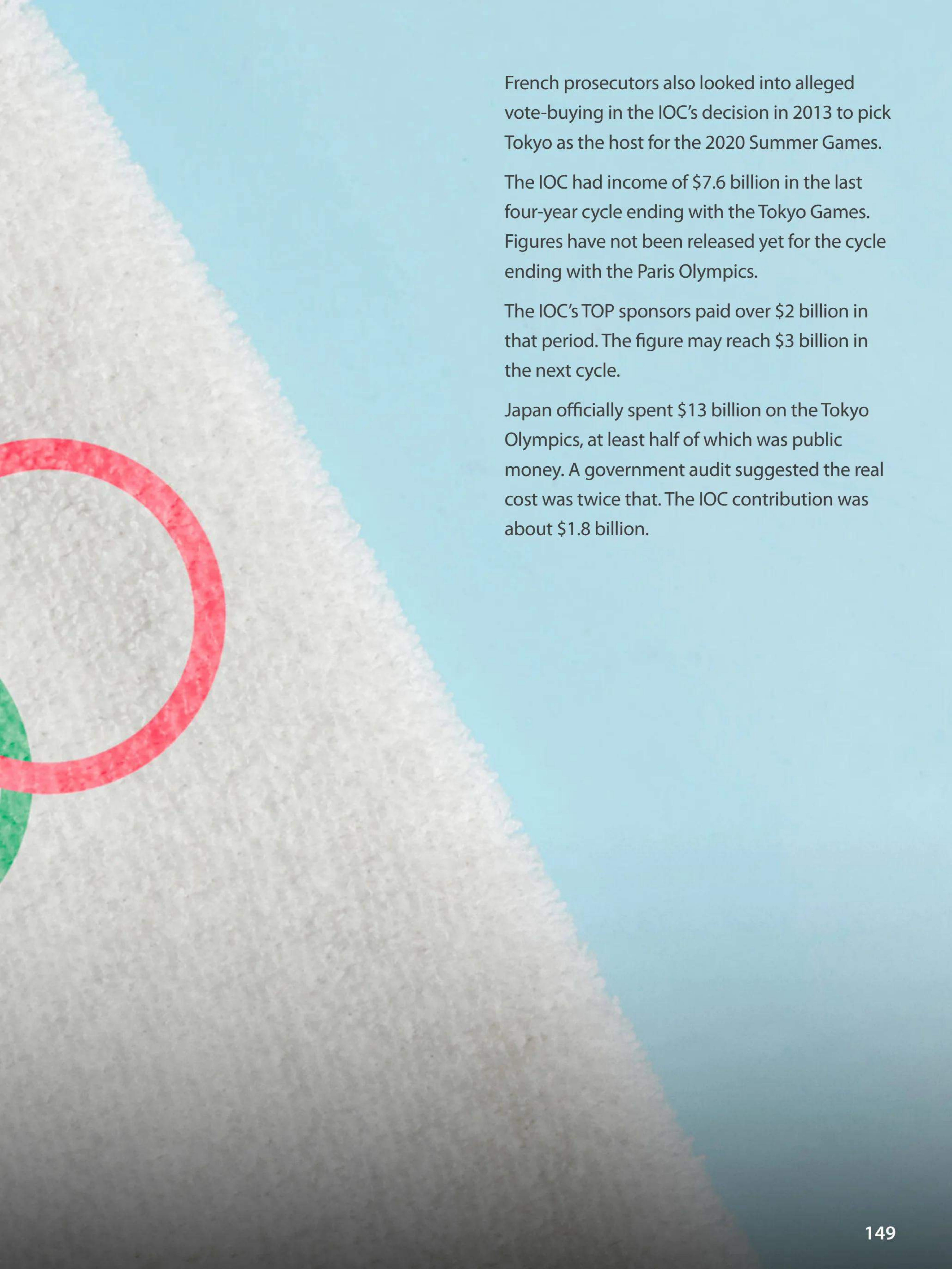
“The decision comes after an evaluation of the company’s evolving corporate brand strategy and its recommitment to more endemic global motorsports platforms,” the Tokyo-based company said in a statement.

Electronics giant Panasonic Corp., an IOC sponsor from 1987, said last month it was terminating its sponsorship and did not give a reason. The decision came after “reviews how sponsorship should evolve.”

The Tokyo Games were mired in corruption scandals linked to local sponsorships and the awarding of contracts. Dentsu Inc, the huge Japanese marketing and public relations company, was the marketing arm of the Tokyo Olympics and raised a record-\$3.3 billion in local sponsorship money.

This is separate from TOP sponsors.





French prosecutors also looked into alleged vote-buying in the IOC's decision in 2013 to pick Tokyo as the host for the 2020 Summer Games.

The IOC had income of \$7.6 billion in the last four-year cycle ending with the Tokyo Games. Figures have not been released yet for the cycle ending with the Paris Olympics.

The IOC's TOP sponsors paid over \$2 billion in that period. The figure may reach \$3 billion in the next cycle.

Japan officially spent \$13 billion on the Tokyo Olympics, at least half of which was public money. A government audit suggested the real cost was twice that. The IOC contribution was about \$1.8 billion.

CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR VETOES BILL TO CREATE FIRST-IN-NATION AI SAFETY MEASURES

California Gov. Gavin Newsom vetoed a landmark bill aimed at establishing first-in-the-nation safety measures for large artificial intelligence models.

The decision is a major blow to efforts attempting to rein in the homegrown industry that is rapidly evolving with little oversight. The bill would have established some of the first regulations on large-scale AI models in the nation and paved the way for AI safety regulations across the country, supporters said.



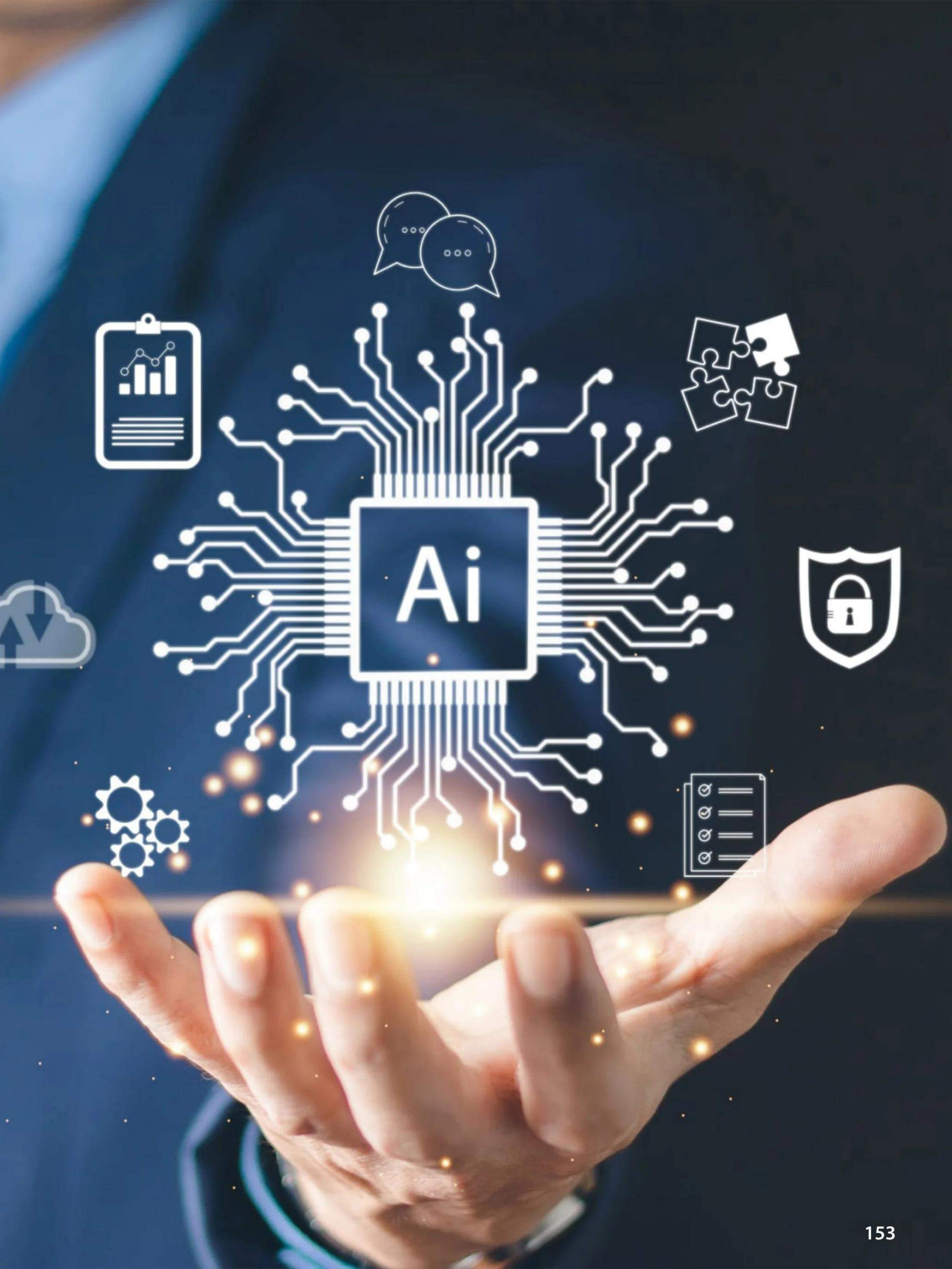
Earlier this month, the Democratic governor told an audience at Dreamforce, an annual conference hosted by software giant Salesforce, that California must lead in regulating AI in the face of federal inaction but that the proposal “can have a chilling effect on the industry.”

The proposal, which drew fierce opposition from startups, tech giants and several Democratic House members, could have hurt the homegrown industry by establishing rigid requirements, Newsom said.

“While well-intentioned, SB 1047 does not take into account whether an AI system is deployed in high-risk environments, involves critical decision-making or the use of sensitive data,” Newsom said in a statement. “Instead, the bill applies stringent standards to even the most basic functions — so long as a large system deploys it. I do not believe this is the best approach to protecting the public from real threats posed by the technology.”

Newsom instead announced that the state will partner with several industry experts, including AI pioneer Fei-Fei Li, to develop guardrails around powerful AI models. Li opposed the AI safety proposal.

The measure, aimed at reducing potential risks created by AI, would have required companies to test their models and publicly disclose their safety protocols to prevent the models from being manipulated to, for example, wipe out the state’s electric grid or help build chemical weapons. Experts say those scenarios could be possible in the future as the industry continues to rapidly advance. It also would have provided whistleblower protections to workers.



dreamforce

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23 Years of Giving Back

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NATIONAL PARK

Attention

Weapons Detection in Use

Please do not remove anything
from your pockets.

Please walk straight through in a
single file line without stopping.





The bill's author, Democratic state Sen. Scott Weiner, called the veto "a setback for everyone who believes in oversight of massive corporations that are making critical decisions that affect the safety and the welfare of the public and the future of the planet."

"The companies developing advanced AI systems acknowledge that the risks these models present to the public are real and rapidly increasing. While the large AI labs have made admirable commitments to monitor and mitigate these risks, the truth is that voluntary commitments from industry are not enforceable and rarely work out well for the public," Wiener said in a statement.

Wiener said the debate around the bill has dramatically advanced the issue of AI safety, and that he would continue pressing that point.

The legislation is among a host of bills passed by the Legislature this year to regulate AI, fight deepfakes and protect workers. State lawmakers said California must take actions this year, citing hard lessons they learned from failing to rein in social media companies when they might have had a chance.

Proponents of the measure, including Elon Musk and Anthropic, said the proposal could have injected some levels of transparency and accountability around large-scale AI models, as developers and experts say they still don't have a full understanding of how AI models behave and why.

The bill targeted systems that require a high level of computing power and more than \$100 million to build. No current AI models have hit

that threshold, but some experts said that could change within the next year.

“This is because of the massive investment scale-up within the industry,” said Daniel Kokotajlo, a former OpenAI researcher who resigned in April over what he saw as the company’s disregard for AI risks. “This is a crazy amount of power to have any private company control unaccountably, and it’s also incredibly risky.”

The United States is already behind Europe in regulating AI to limit risks. The California proposal wasn’t as comprehensive as regulations in Europe, but it would have been a good first step to set guardrails around the rapidly growing technology that is raising concerns about job loss, misinformation, invasions of privacy and automation bias, supporters said.

A number of leading AI companies last year voluntarily agreed to follow safeguards set by the White House, such as testing and sharing information about their models. The California bill would have mandated AI developers to follow requirements similar to those commitments, said the measure’s supporters.

But critics, including former U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, argued that the bill would “kill California tech” and stifle innovation. It would have discouraged AI developers from investing in large models or sharing open-source software, they said.

Newsom’s decision to veto the bill marks another win in California for big tech companies and AI developers, many of whom spent the past year lobbying alongside the California Chamber of Commerce to sway the governor and lawmakers from advancing AI regulations.



A woman with short brown hair and glasses is smiling at the camera. She is wearing a light blue short-sleeved button-down shirt with a dark geometric pattern and an orange lanyard with a white ID badge. She is standing in front of a large blue cloud-shaped sign that says "salesforce" in white lowercase letters. The background is a vibrant floral display with various colorful flowers (red, orange, purple, yellow) and green ferns. To the left, a person in a black shirt is partially visible, and to the right, a person in a grey suit is partially visible.

salesforce



Two other sweeping AI proposals, which also faced mounting opposition from the tech industry and others, died ahead of a legislative deadline last month. The bills would have required AI developers to label AI-generated content and ban discrimination from AI tools used to make employment decisions.

The governor said earlier this summer he wanted to protect California's status as a global leader in AI, noting that 32 of the world's top 50 AI companies are located in the state.

He has promoted California as an early adopter as the state could soon deploy generative AI tools to address highway congestion, provide tax guidance and streamline homelessness programs. The state also announced last month a voluntary partnership with AI giant Nvidia to help train students, college faculty, developers and data scientists. California is also considering new rules against AI discrimination in hiring practices.

Earlier this month, Newsom signed some of the toughest laws in the country to crack down on election deepfakes and measures to protect Hollywood workers from unauthorized AI use.

But even with Newsom's veto, the California safety proposal is inspiring lawmakers in other states to take up similar measures, said Tatiana Rice, deputy director of the Future of Privacy Forum, a nonprofit that works with lawmakers on technology and privacy proposals.

"They are going to potentially either copy it or do something similar next legislative session," Rice said. "So it's not going away."



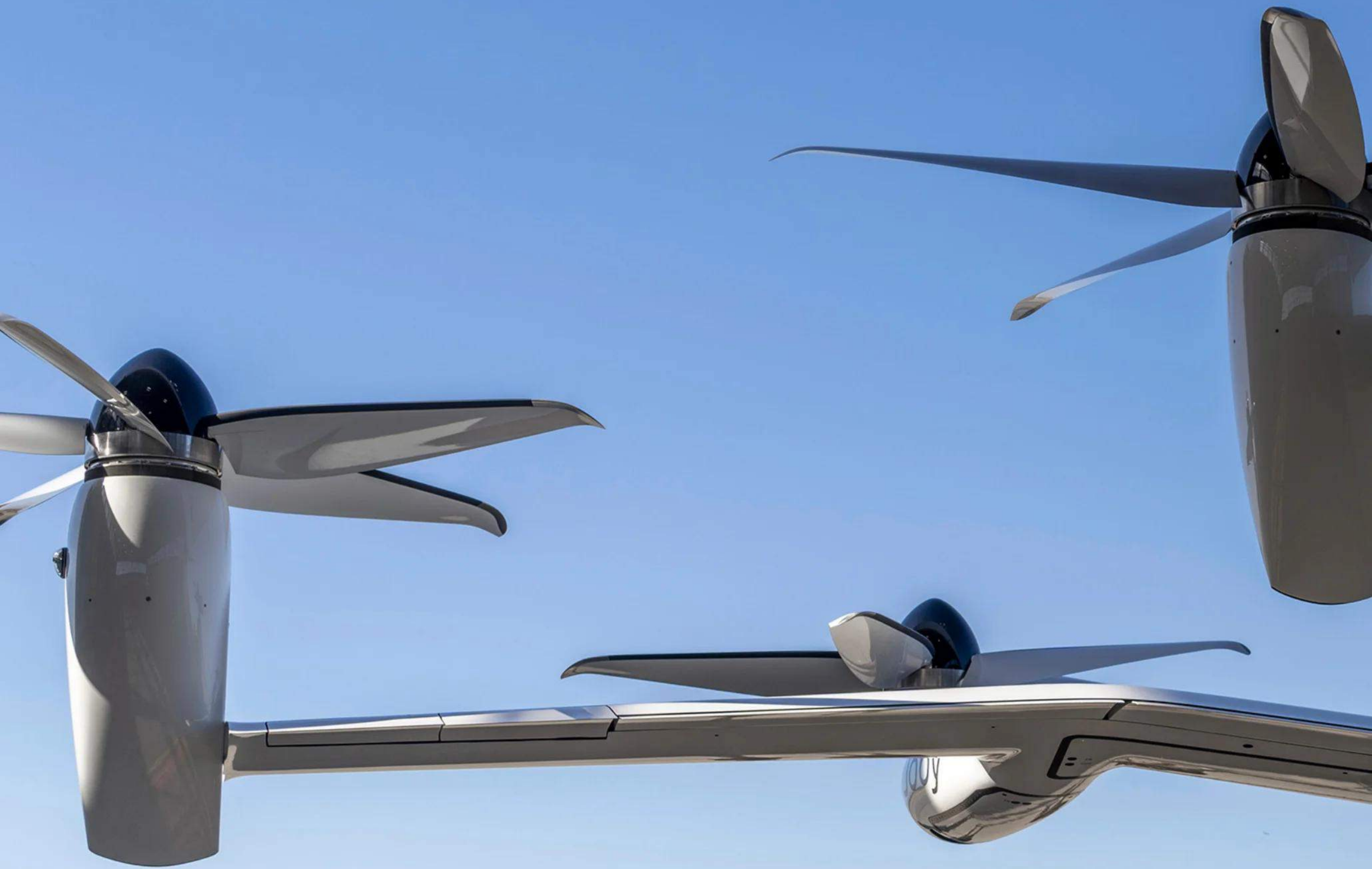
A close-up, low-angle shot of a Joby Aviation aircraft at night. The aircraft is white with the word "Joby" written in a dark, sans-serif font on its side. The background is a dark, out-of-focus cityscape with illuminated windows of buildings. The lighting is dramatic, with a strong light source from the left creating a bright highlight on the aircraft's fuselage and wing.

TOYOTA BOOSTS ITS INVESTMENT IN AIR TAXI COMPANY JOBY AVIATION BY ANOTHER \$500 MILLION

Joby









Toyota is investing another \$500 million in Joby Aviation as part of a partnership aimed at helping get the American air taxi company's commercial business off the ground.

Toyota's investment will be used to support certification and production of Joby's electric air taxi, the companies said this week, and brings Toyota Motor Corporation's total investment in Joby to \$894 million. After the investment, which will come in two equal tranches later this year and next, Toyota will own about 22% of Joby's outstanding shares.

"Today's investment builds on nearly seven years of collaboration between our companies," said JoeBen Bevirt, founder and CEO, Joby Aviation. "The knowledge and support shared by Toyota has been instrumental in Joby's success and we look forward to deepening our relationship as we deliver on our shared vision for the future of air travel."

Joby said it recently rolled its third aircraft off the production line and said in August that the fourth of five certifications was in progress.

In addition to the cash investment, Toyota has been spending time and human resources to share its design and manufacturing methods. The Japanese automaker said its engineers are working with Joby's team at its California headquarters.

Last year, the companies signed a long-term agreement for Toyota to supply key powertrain and other components for the production of Joby's aircraft.

TESLA POSTS FIRST QUARTERLY INCREASE IN DELIVERIES, BUT SHARES SLUMP WITH INVESTORS HOPING FOR MORE



ELLERRE



Low interest financing, sweet lease deals, price cuts and free charging boosted Tesla's global deliveries in the third quarter, the first increase this year for the electric vehicle maker.

The Austin, Texas, company said this week that it delivered 462,890 vehicles from July through September, bolstered by loans as low as 1.99%, and \$299 monthly leases on the Model 3, its least expensive vehicle. It delivered 435,059 vehicles during the same period last year.

The figures for July through September came in slightly higher than analyst estimates of 462,000 for the period, according to data provider FactSet.

However, shares of Tesla Inc. dropped sharply in morning trading, down nearly 4%.

The deliveries were "good and a step in the right direction," wrote Dan Ives of Wedbush, but that there would be pressure on the company's stock because investors had been hoping for even better.

"Overall, this is a clear improvement from the first half and we believe getting in the range of 1.8 million for the year is still the key and important bogey," Ives said.

Tesla has struggled much of the year to sell its aging model lineup as growth in electric vehicle sales in the U.S. and Europe slowed due to concerns with range, price and the ability to charge on trips.

Falling sales early in the year led to once-unheard of discounts for the automaker, cutting into its industry leading profit margins. Analysts estimated that Tesla's average vehicle sales price









was \$42,500 for the third quarter, the lowest price in four years.

The sales decline likely will pull down third quarter earnings when they are announced on Oct. 23.

Tesla's sales decline comes as competition is increasing from legacy and startup automakers, which are trying to nibble away at the company's market share.

Nearly all of Tesla's sales came from the smaller and less-expensive Models 3 and Y, with the company selling only 22,915 of its more expensive models that include X and S, as well as the new Cybertruck.

Wedbush analyst Dan Ives wrote in a note to investors that third-quarter sales would bring a rebound as China sales continue to increase and price and demand stabilizes." As China continues to heat up on the demand story for Tesla with favorable leasing/financing terms and pent-up demand in the region, we are confident that we will see a significant growth figure in the region," he wrote.

Europe will continue to be slow with macroeconomic pressures, and U.S. demand should stabilize, Ives wrote.

But BNP Paribas Exane said in an investor note that long term expectations of the market are somewhat high for Tesla. The company said its sales estimates for 2026 and 2027 "remain 10% to 15% below the street, respectively."

Tesla is scheduled to unveil a purpose built robotaxi at an event next week.



A photograph of a modern glass-walled building with a large blue 'DTV' sculpture in the foreground. The building's glass reflects the sky and surrounding greenery. The sculpture is made of large, three-dimensional blue letters. In the foreground, there is a concrete walkway and some small plants.

SATELLITE SERVICE DIRECTV BUYS RIVAL DISH AS IT FIGHTS THE ONSLAUGHT OF STREAMING SERVICES

DirecTV is buying Dish and Sling, a deal it has sought to complete for years, as the company seeks to better compete against streaming services that have become dominant.

DirecTV said this week that it will acquire Dish TV and Sling TV from its owner EchoStar in a debt exchange transaction that includes a payment of \$1, plus the assumption of approximately \$9.8 billion in debt.

The prospect of a DirecTV-Dish combo has long been rumored, with headlines about reported talks popping up over the years. And the two almost merged more than two decades ago —

but the Federal Communications Commission blocked their owners' then-\$18.5 billion deal, citing antitrust concerns.

The pay-for-TV market has shifted significantly since. As more and more consumers tune into online streaming giants, demand for more traditional satellite continues to shrink. And, although high-profile acquisitions have proven to be particularly tough under the Biden-Harris administration, that may make regulators more inclined to approve DirecTV and Dish's pairing this time around.

DirecTV said that the transaction will help it bring smaller content packages to consumer at lower prices and essentially provide a one-stop shopping experience for entertainment programming.

It's hoping this will appeal to those who have left satellite video services for streaming. The company said that combined, DirecTV and Dish have collectively lost 63% of their satellite customers since 2016.







“DirecTV operates in a highly competitive video distribution industry,” DirecTV CEO Bill Morrow said in a statement. “With greater scale, we expect a combined DirecTV and Dish will be better able to work with programmers to realize our vision for the future of tv, which is to aggregate, curate, and distribute content tailored to customers’ interests, and to be better positioned to realize operating efficiencies while creating value for customers through additional investment.”

The current deal could provide a key lifeline for EchoStar. The Colorado-based telecommunications company has reportedly faced the prospect of bankruptcy as it continues to burn through cash and see losses pile up.

In a recent securities filing, EchoStar disclosed that it had just \$521 million in “cash on hand.” And the company forecast negative cash flows for the remainder of the year — while also pointing to major looming debt payments, with more than \$1.98 billion of debt set to mature in November.

"With an improved financial profile, we will be better positioned to continue enhancing and deploying our nationwide 5G Open RAN wireless network," EchoStar President and CEO Hamid Akhavan said. "This will provide U.S. wireless consumers with more choices and help to drive innovation at a faster pace."

By shedding Dish, EchoStar will be able to focus its efforts elsewhere, like its wireless carrier Boost Mobile.

"We are playing to win in the wireless business. there's no doubt about it," Akhavan said during a conference call, adding that the company may need to seek additional funding and financing in the future to achieve its goals.

Shares of EchoStar fell more than 14% after the announcement.

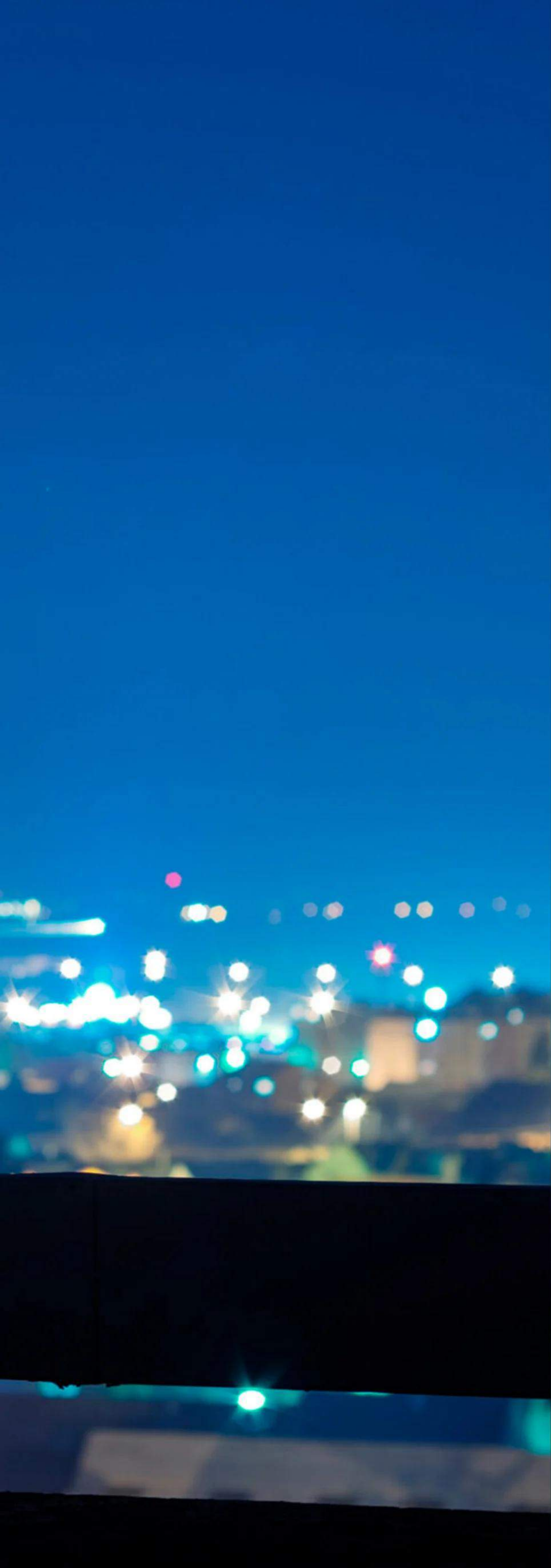
The DirecTV and Dish deal is targeted to close in 2025's fourth quarter. But it is contingent on several factors, including regulatory approvals and bondholders writing off nearly \$1.6 billion in debt related to Dish.

The combined company will be based in El Segundo, California.









“We believe regulatory approval is likely to be greater than 50% given the opportunity for the combined company to improve its competitiveness to offer a range of linear video packages as well as to take a more aggressive stance on offering a live streaming video product,” Michael Rollins of Citi Investment Research wrote in a note to clients.

But the analyst added that there’s still significant uncertainty related to whether or not the Federal Communications Commission, Department of Justice and other possible regulators give the necessary approvals, based on previous talks with company management and industry experts over the last few years.

Shortly before DirecTV made its announcement, AT&T said it was selling its remaining stake in DirecTV to private equity firm TPG in a deal valued at about \$7.6 billion.

The move ends the communication giant’s remaining ties to the entertainment industry.

AT&T said in a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission that it will receive payments from TPG and DirecTV for its remaining 70% stake in the satellite TV company. This includes \$1.7 billion in the second half of the year and \$5.4 billion next year. The remaining amount will be paid in 2029.

AT&T purchased DirecTV for \$48.5 billion back in 2015. But in 2021, following the loss of millions of customers, AT&T sold a 30% stake of the business to TPG for \$16.25 billion.

AT&T’s deal is expected to close in the second half of 2025.

SPACEX LAUNCHES RESCUE MISSION FOR 2 NASA ASTRONAUTS WHO ARE STUCK IN SPACE UNTIL NEXT YEAR

SpaceX launched a rescue mission for the two stuck astronauts at the International Space Station, sending up a downsized crew to bring them home but not until next year.

The capsule rocketed into orbit to fetch the test pilots whose Boeing spacecraft returned to Earth empty earlier this month because of safety concerns. The switch in rides left it to NASA's Nick Hague and Russia's Alexander Gorbunov to retrieve Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams.





Because NASA rotates space station crews approximately every six months, this newly launched flight with two empty seats reserved for Wilmore and Williams won't return until late February. Officials said there wasn't a way to bring them back earlier on SpaceX without interrupting other scheduled missions.

By the time they return, the pair will have logged more than eight months in space. They expected to be gone just a week when they signed up for Boeing's first astronaut flight that launched in June.

NASA ultimately decided that Boeing's Starliner was too risky after a cascade of thruster troubles and helium leaks marred its trip to the orbiting complex. The space agency cut two astronauts from this SpaceX launch to make room on the Dragon capsule's return leg for Wilmore and Williams.

Wilmore and Williams watched the liftoff via a live link sent to the space station, prompting a cheer of "Go Dragon!" from Williams, NASA deputy program manager Dina Contella said.

Williams has been promoted to commander of the space station, which will soon be back to its normal population of seven. The Dragon capsule docked in darkness as the two craft soared 265 miles (426 kilometers) above Botswana. Four astronauts living there since March can leave in their own SpaceX capsule. Their homecoming was delayed a month by Starliner's turmoil.

The Dragon carrying NASA's Nick Hague and the Russian Space Agency's Alexander Gorbunov will remain at the space station until February, turning what should have been a weeklong trip









for Wilmore and Williams into a mission lasting more than eight months.

Hague noted before the flight that change is the one constant in human spaceflight.

"There's always something that is changing. Maybe this time it's been a little more visible to the public," he said.

Hague was thrust into the commander's job for the rescue mission based on his experience and handling of a launch emergency six years ago. The Russian rocket failed shortly after liftoff, and the capsule carrying him and a cosmonaut catapulted off the top to safety.

Rookie NASA astronaut Zena Cardman and veteran space flier Stephanie Wilson were pulled from this flight after NASA opted to go with SpaceX to bring the stuck astronauts home. Promised a future space mission, both were at NASA's Kennedy Space Center, taking part in the launch livestream. Gorbunov remained on the flight under an exchange agreement between NASA and the Russian Space Agency.

"Every crewed launch that I have ever watched has really brought me a lot of emotion. This one today was especially unique," a teary-eyed Cardman said following the early afternoon liftoff. "It was hard not to watch that rocket lift off without thinking, 'That's my rocket and that's my crew.'"

Moments before liftoff, Hague paid tribute to his two colleagues left behind: "Unbreakable. We did it together." Once in orbit, he called it a "sweet ride" and thanked everyone who made it possible.





Earlier, Hague acknowledged the challenges of launching with half a crew and returning with two astronauts trained on another spacecraft.

"We've got a dynamic challenge ahead of us," Hague said after arriving from Houston last weekend. "We know each other and we're professionals and we step up and do what's asked of us."

SpaceX has long been the leader in NASA's commercial crew program, established as the space shuttles were retiring more than a decade ago. SpaceX beat Boeing in delivering astronauts to the space station in 2020, and it is now up to 10 crew flights for NASA.

Boeing has struggled with a variety of issues over the years, repeating a Starliner test flight with no one on board after the first one veered off course. The Starliner that left Wilmore and Williams in space landed without any issues in the New Mexico desert on Sept. 6, and has since returned to Kennedy Space Center. A week ago, Boeing's defense and space chief was replaced.

Delayed by Hurricane Helene pounding Florida, the latest SpaceX liftoff marked the first for astronauts from Launch Complex 40 at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station. SpaceX took over the old Titan rocket pad nearly two decades ago and used it for satellite and station cargo launches, while flying crews from Kennedy's former Apollo and shuttle pad next door. The company wanted more flexibility as more Falcon rockets soared.

ARKANSAS SUES YOUTUBE OVER CLAIMS THAT THE SITE IS FUELING A MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS

Arkansas sued YouTube and parent company Alphabet this week, saying the video-sharing platform is made deliberately addictive and fueling a mental health crisis among youth in the state.

Attorney General Tim Griffin's office filed the lawsuit in state court, accusing them of violating the state's deceptive trade practices and public nuisance laws. The lawsuit claims





the site is addictive and has resulted in the state spending millions on expanded mental health and other services for young people.

“YouTube amplifies harmful material, doses users with dopamine hits, and drives youth engagement and advertising revenue,” the lawsuit said. “As a result, youth mental health problems have advanced in lockstep with the growth of social media, and in particular, YouTube.”

Alphabet’s Google, which owns the video service and is also named as a defendant in the case, denied the lawsuit’s claims.

“Providing young people with a safer, healthier experience has always been core to our work. In collaboration with youth, mental health and parenting experts, we built services and policies to provide young people with age-appropriate experiences, and parents with robust controls,” Google spokesperson Jose Castaneda said in a statement. “The allegations in this complaint are simply not true.”

YouTube requires users under 17 to get their parent’s permission before using the site, while accounts for users younger than 13 must be linked to a parental account. But it is possible to watch YouTube without an account, and kids can easily lie about their age.

The lawsuit is the latest in an ongoing push by state and federal lawmakers to highlight the impact that social media sites have on younger users. U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy in June called on Congress to require warning labels on social media platforms about their effects on young people’s lives, similar to those now mandatory on cigarette boxes.





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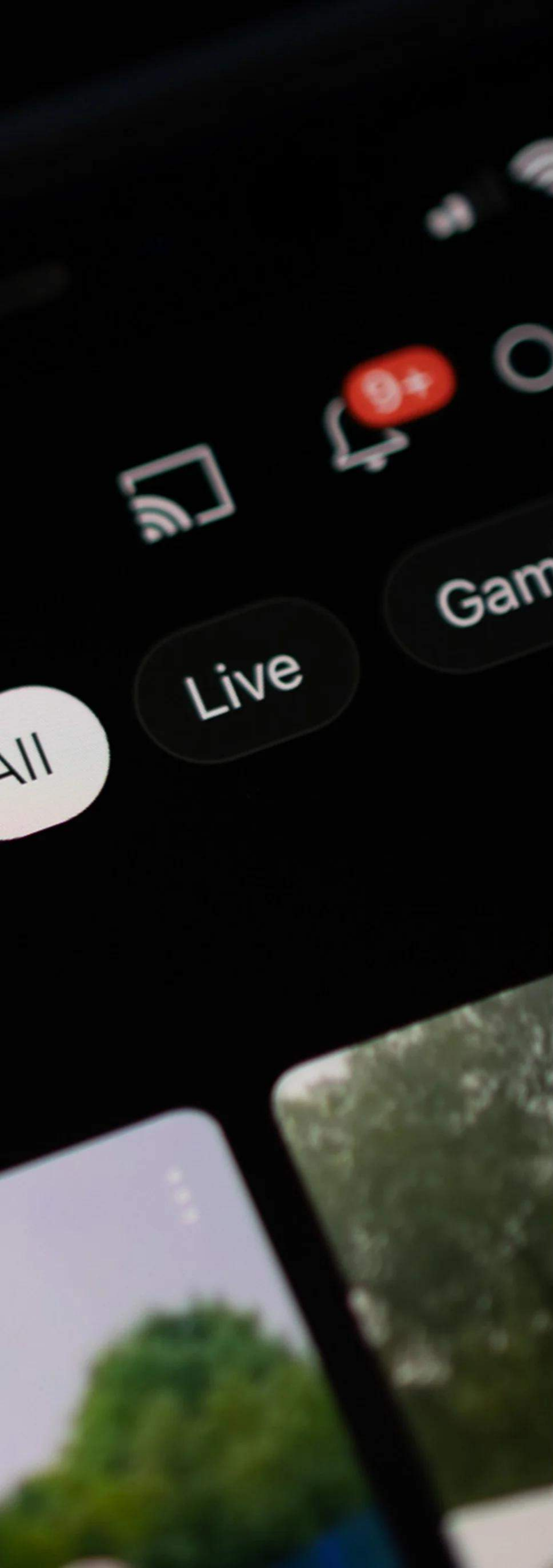
 Premium



Explore



Shorts



Arkansas last year filed similar lawsuits against TikTok and Facebook parent company Meta, claiming the social media companies were misleading consumers about the safety of children on their platforms and protections of users' private data. Those lawsuits are still pending in state court.

Arkansas also enacted a law requiring parental consent for minors to create new social media accounts, though that measure has been blocked by a federal judge.

Along with TikTok, YouTube is one of the most popular sites for children and teens. Both sites have been questioned in the past for hosting, and in some cases promoting, videos that encourage gun violence, eating disorders and self-harm.

YouTube in June changed its policies about firearm videos, prohibiting any videos demonstrating how to remove firearm safety devices. Under the new policies, videos showing homemade guns, automatic weapons and certain firearm accessories like silencers will be restricted to users 18 and older.

Arkansas' lawsuit claims that YouTube's algorithms steer youth to harmful adult content, and that it facilitates the spread of child sexual abuse material.

The lawsuit doesn't seek specific damages, but asks that YouTube be ordered to fund prevention, education and treatment for "excessive and problematic use of social media."

**PARENTS WILL
HAVE TO SET
ASIDE SOME
EARNINGS
FOR CHILD
INFLUENCERS
UNDER NEW
CALIFORNIA LAWS**





TikTok



Parents in California who profit from social media posts featuring their children will be required to set aside some earnings for their minor influencers under a pair of measures signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom.

California led the nation nearly 80 years ago in setting ground rules to protect child performers from financial abuse, but those regulations needed updating, Newsom said. The existing law covers children working in movies and TV but doesn't extend to minors making their names on platforms such as TikTok and Instagram.

Family-style vlogs, where influencers share details of their daily lives with countless strangers on the internet, have become a popular and lucrative way to earn money for many.

Besides coordinated dances and funny toddler comments, family vlogs nowadays may share intimate details of their children's lives — grades, potty training, illnesses, misbehaviors, first periods — for strangers to view. Brand deals featuring the internet's darlings can reap tens of thousands of dollars per video, but there have been minimal regulations for the "sharent hood" industry, which experts say can cause serious harm to children.

"A lot has changed since Hollywood's early days, but here in California, our laser focus on protecting kids from exploitation remains the same," he said in a statement. "In old Hollywood, child actors were exploited. In 2024, it's now child influencers. Today, that modern exploitation ends through two new laws to protect young influencers on TikTok, Instagram, YouTube, and other social media platforms."



The California laws protecting child social media influencers follow the first-in-the-nation legislation in Illinois that took effect this July. The California measures apply to all children under 18, while the Illinois law covers those under 16.

The California measures, which received overwhelming bipartisan support, require parents and guardians who monetize their children's online presence to establish a trust for the starlets. Parents will have to keep records of how many minutes the children appear in their online content and how much money they earn from those posts, among other things.

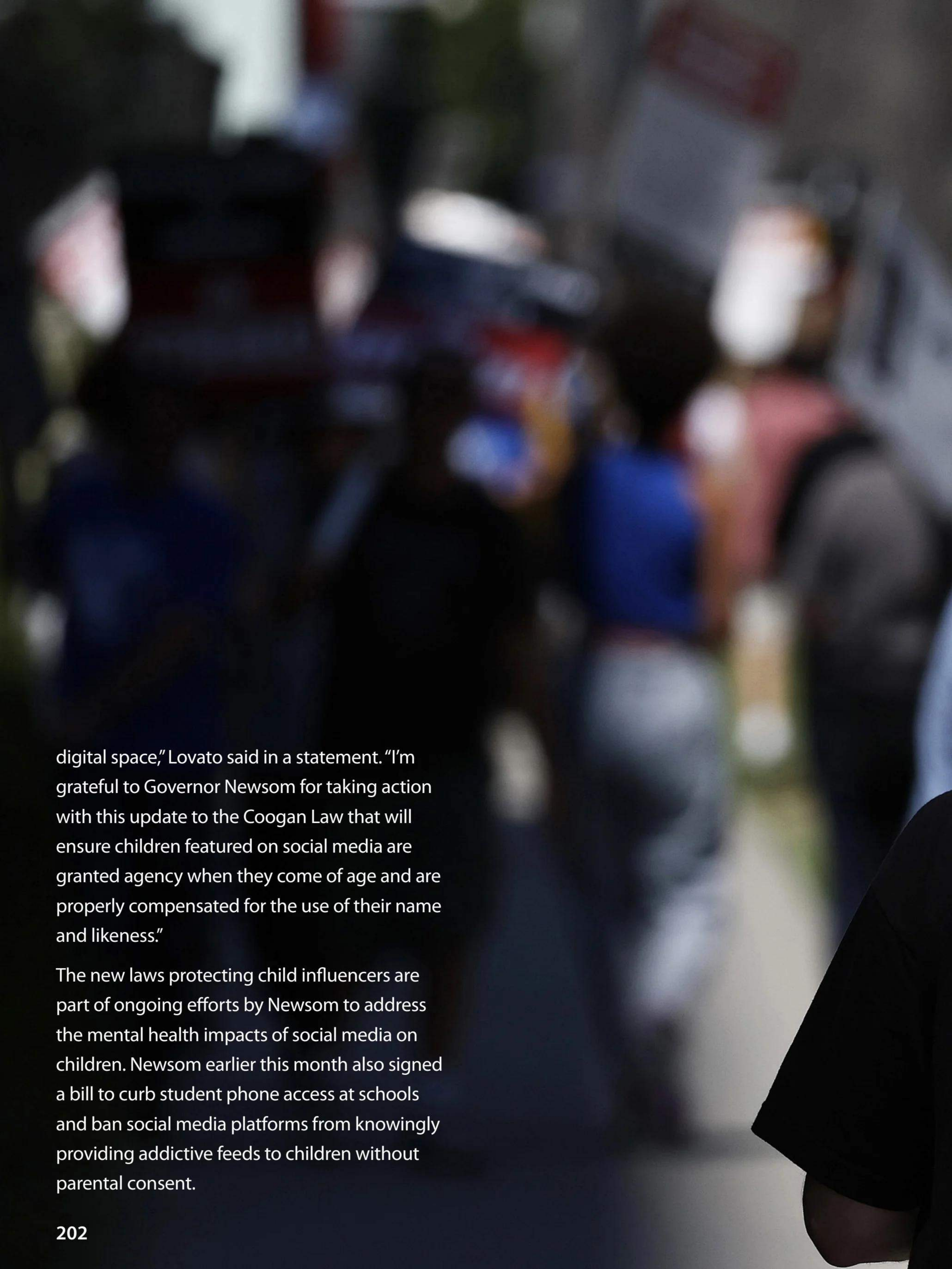
The laws entitle child influencers to a percentage of earnings based on how often they appear on video blogs or online content that generates at least 10 cents per view. The children could sue their parents for failing to do so.

Children employed as content creators on platforms such as YouTube will also have at least 15% of their earnings deposited in a trust for when they turn 18. An existing state law has provided such protection to child actors since 1939 after a silent film-era child actor Jackie Coogan sued his parents for squandering his earnings.

The new laws will take effect next year.

The laws have the support from The Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, or, SAG-AFTRA, and singer Demi Lovato, a former child star who has spoken publicly about child performers abuse.

"In order to build a better future for the next generation of child stars, we need to put protections in place for minors working in the



digital space,” Lovato said in a statement. “I’m grateful to Governor Newsom for taking action with this update to the Coogan Law that will ensure children featured on social media are granted agency when they come of age and are properly compensated for the use of their name and likeness.”

The new laws protecting child influencers are part of ongoing efforts by Newsom to address the mental health impacts of social media on children. Newsom earlier this month also signed a bill to curb student phone access at schools and ban social media platforms from knowingly providing addictive feeds to children without parental consent.



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STAND TOGETHER**

SAG-AFTRA SUPPORTS

**WRITERS
GUILD**

No dispute with any other employer at this site.
SAG-AFTRA is not asking any individual to cease performing any
services, or to refuse to pick up, deliver, handle or transport any goods.

CUBS



A photograph of Warren Buffett, an older man with white hair, wearing a dark blue suit and a white shirt. He is shown from the chest up, gesturing with his right hand as if speaking. The background is a blurred, warm-toned interior.

**WARREN
BUFFETT BUYS REST
OF BERKSHIRE
HATHAWAY'S UTILITIES,
BUT INVESTORS MUST
GUESS AT THE PRICE**

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY

Image: Brendan McDermid

BRK
LISTED
NYSE

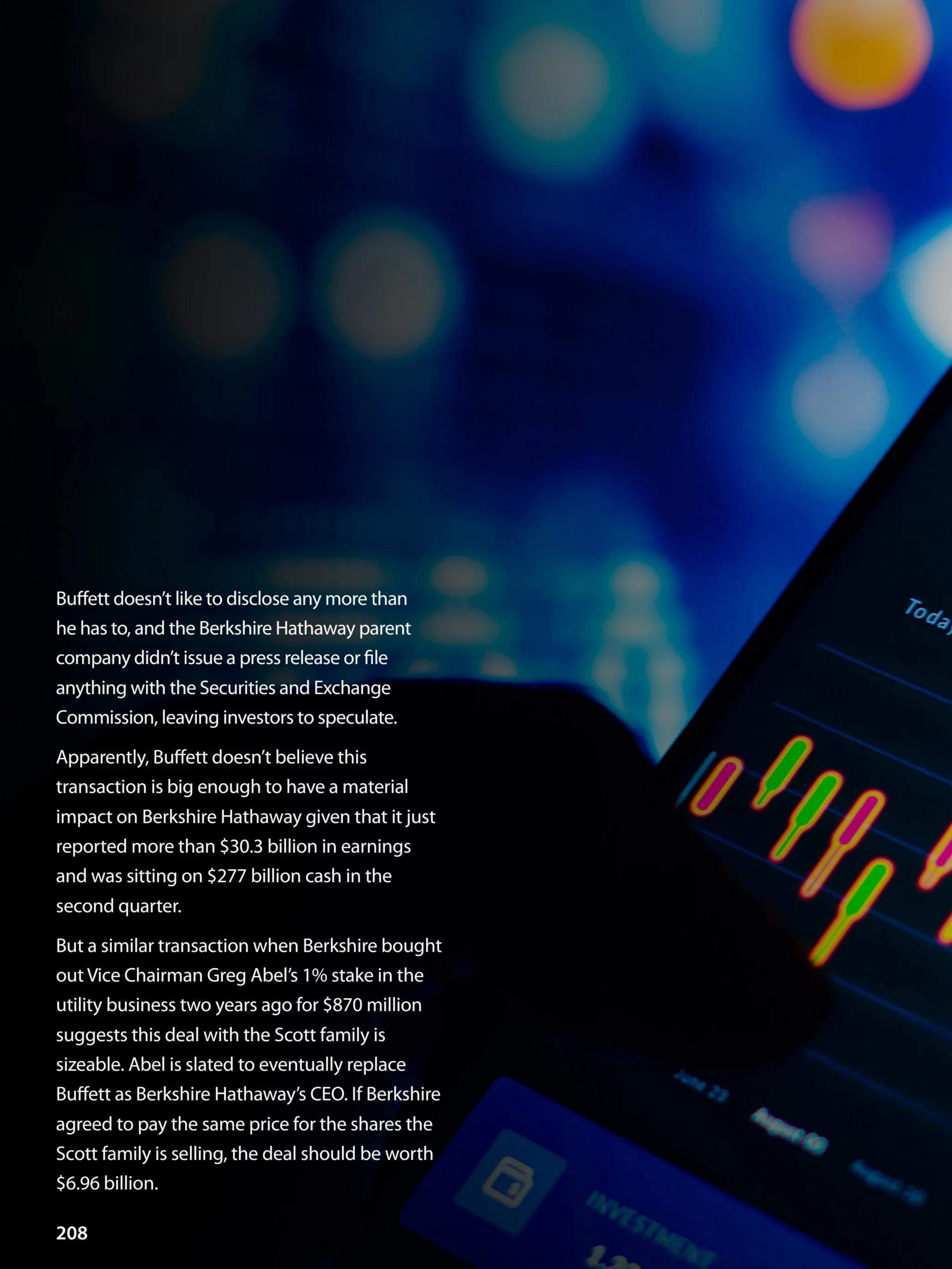
Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway is buying the rest of its utility unit from the estate of a longtime board member who died three years ago, but it's not clear exactly how much it will pay for that 8% stake in the massive utility business.

Berkshire Hathaway Energy said in a regulatory filing Tuesday that it will pay Walter Scott's family \$2.4 billion cash and issue a number of Class B Berkshire shares that are equivalent to 1.6 million shares of the utility business, but since the utility's shares aren't publicly traded it is hard to estimate the total value of the deal that's expected to close later this year. Altogether, Berkshire is buying more than 4.4 million shares in the utilities to give it 100% ownership.

"That filing left me with a number of questions, but they don't have an investor relations function so I don't expect those questions to be answered," CFRA Research analyst Cathy Seifert said. "The hope is that when they report earnings there will be more details."

Des Moines, Iowa-based Berkshire Hathaway Energy includes MidAmerican Energy, PacifiCorp and NV Energy in Nevada and a Canadian electricity transmission provider called AltaLink, among other businesses.

INC.



Buffett doesn't like to disclose any more than he has to, and the Berkshire Hathaway parent company didn't issue a press release or file anything with the Securities and Exchange Commission, leaving investors to speculate.

Apparently, Buffett doesn't believe this transaction is big enough to have a material impact on Berkshire Hathaway given that it just reported more than \$30.3 billion in earnings and was sitting on \$277 billion cash in the second quarter.

But a similar transaction when Berkshire bought out Vice Chairman Greg Abel's 1% stake in the utility business two years ago for \$870 million suggests this deal with the Scott family is sizeable. Abel is slated to eventually replace Buffett as Berkshire Hathaway's CEO. If Berkshire agreed to pay the same price for the shares the Scott family is selling, the deal should be worth \$6.96 billion.



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BERKSHIRE
HATHAWAY

BUY

SELL

STOCK TRADING

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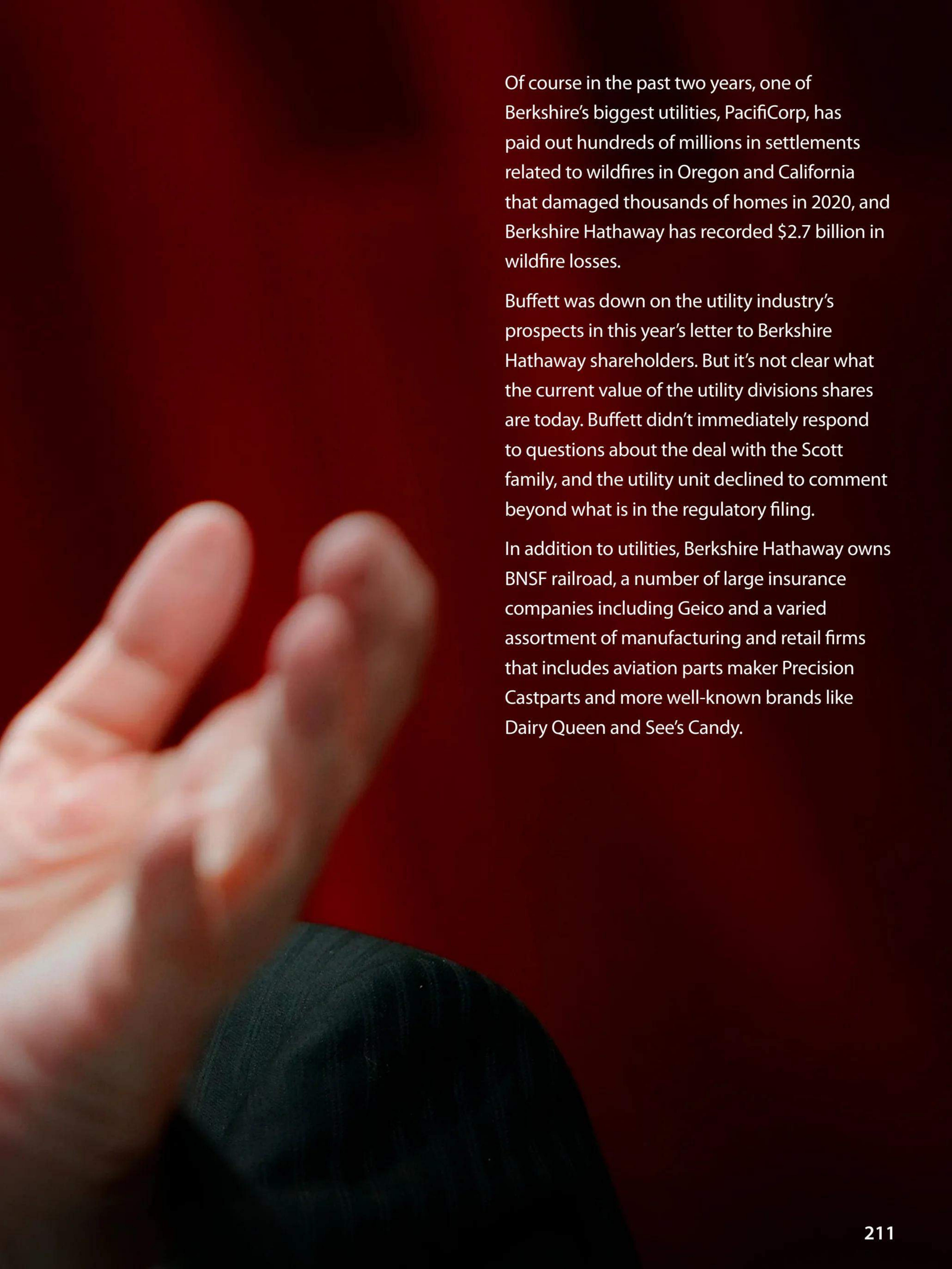
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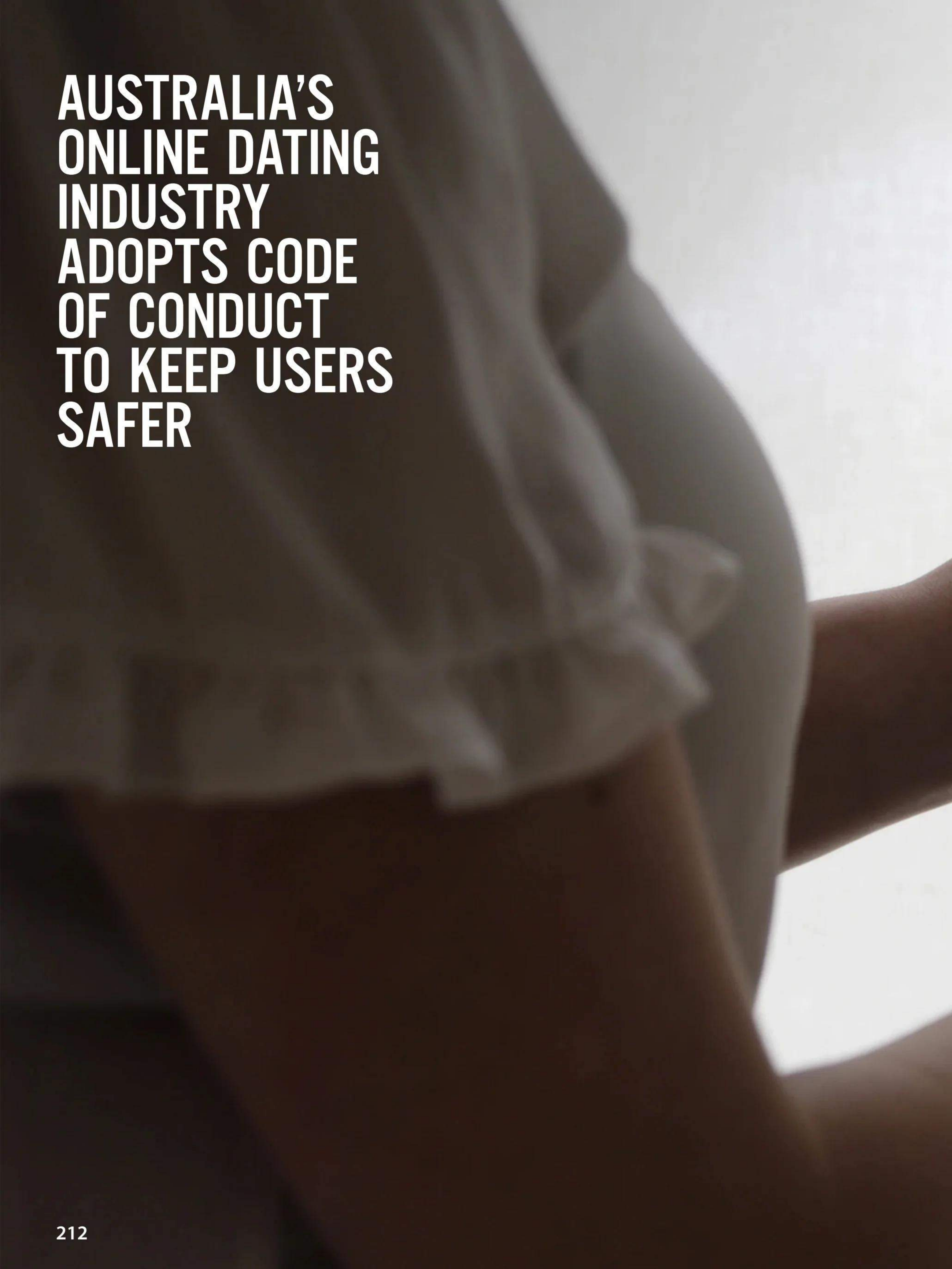




Of course in the past two years, one of Berkshire's biggest utilities, PacifiCorp, has paid out hundreds of millions in settlements related to wildfires in Oregon and California that damaged thousands of homes in 2020, and Berkshire Hathaway has recorded \$2.7 billion in wildfire losses.

Buffett was down on the utility industry's prospects in this year's letter to Berkshire Hathaway shareholders. But it's not clear what the current value of the utility divisions shares are today. Buffett didn't immediately respond to questions about the deal with the Scott family, and the utility unit declined to comment beyond what is in the regulatory filing.

In addition to utilities, Berkshire Hathaway owns BNSF railroad, a number of large insurance companies including Geico and a varied assortment of manufacturing and retail firms that includes aviation parts maker Precision Castparts and more well-known brands like Dairy Queen and See's Candy.



AUSTRALIA'S ONLINE DATING INDUSTRY ADOPTS CODE OF CONDUCT TO KEEP USERS SAFER



A code of conduct will be enforced on the online dating industry to better protect Australian users after research found that three-in-four people suffer some form of sexual violence through the platforms, Australia's government said this week.

Bumble, Grindr and Match Group Inc., a Texas-based company that owns platforms including Tinder, Hinge, OKCupid and Plenty of Fish, have agreed to the code that took effect, Communications Minister Michelle Rowland said.

The platforms, which account for 75% of the industry in Australia, have until April 1 to implement the changes before they are strictly enforced, Rowland said.

The code requires the platforms' systems to detect potential incidents of online-enabled harm and demands that the accounts of some offenders are terminated.

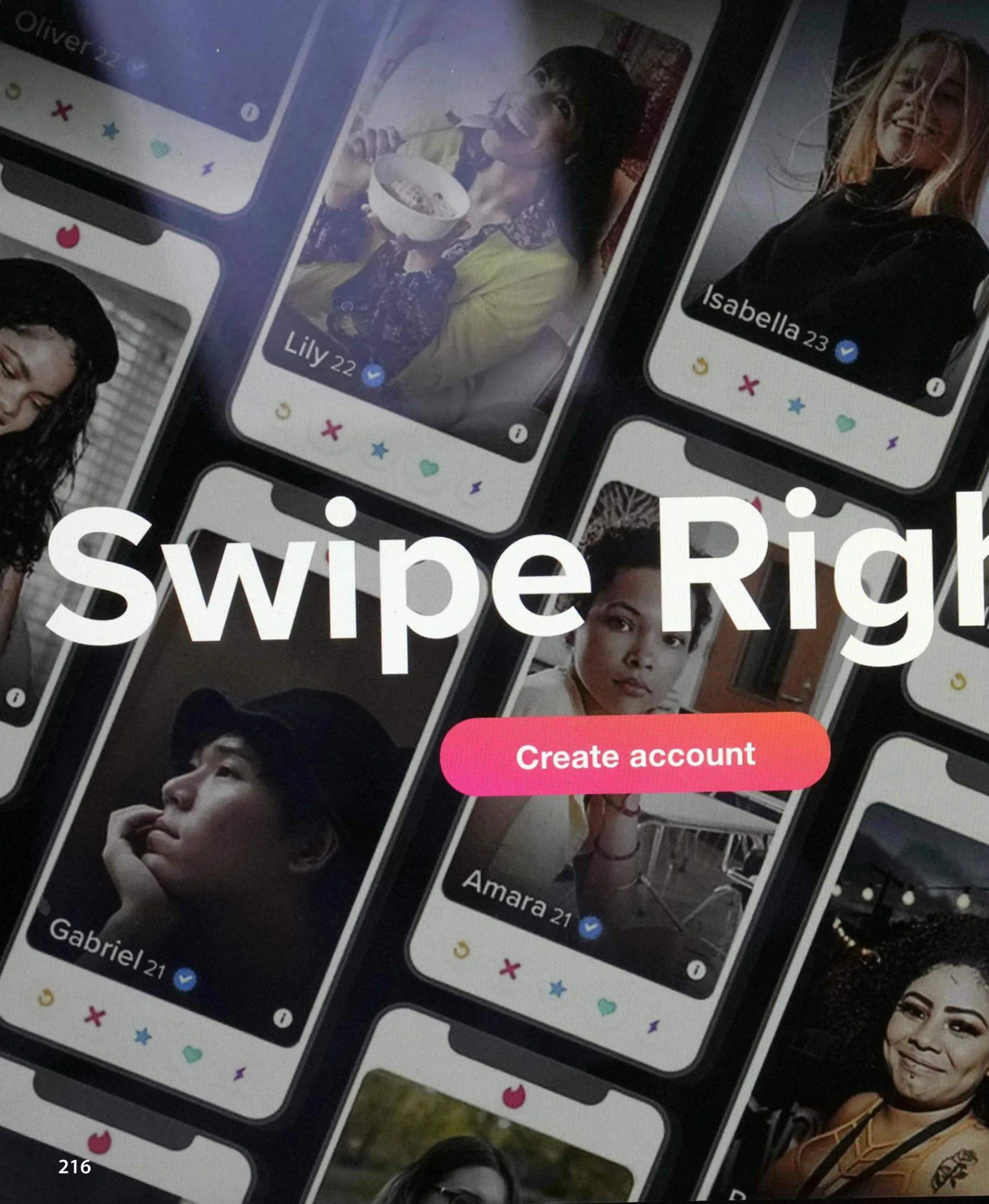
Complaint and reporting mechanisms are to be made prominent and transparent. A new rating system will show users how well platforms are meeting their obligations under the code.

The government called for a code of conduct last year after the Australian Institute of Criminology research found that three-in-four users of dating apps or websites had experienced some form of sexual violence through these platforms in the five years through 2021.

"There needs to be a complaint-handling process. This is a pretty basic feature that Australians would have expected in the first place," Rowland said.



Safety Support Download



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"If there are grounds to ban a particular individual from utilizing one of those platforms, if they're banned on one platform, they're blocked on all platforms," she added.

Match Group said it had already introduced new safety features on Tinder including photo and identification verification to prevent bad actors from accessing the platform while giving users more confidence in the authenticity of their connections.

The platform used artificial intelligence to issue real-time warnings about potentially offensive language in an opening line and advising users to pause before sending.

"This is a pervasive issue, and we take our responsibility to help keep users safe on our platform very seriously," Match Group said in a statement on.

Match Group said it would continue to collaborate with the government and the industry to "help make dating safer for all Australians."

Bumble said it shared the government's hope of eliminating gender-based violence and was grateful for the opportunity to work with the government and industry on what the platform described as a "world-first dating code of practice."

"We know that domestic and sexual violence is an enormous problem in Australia, and that women, members of LGBTQ+ communities, and First Nations are the most at risk," a Bumble statement said.

"Bumble puts women's experiences at the center of our mission to create a world where

All photos are of

all relationships are healthy and equitable, and safety has been central to our mission from day one,” Bumble added.

Grindr said in a statement it was “honored to participate in the development of the code and shares the Australian government’s commitment to online safety.”

All the platforms helped design the code they signed up to.

Platforms that have not signed up include Happn, Coffee Meets Bagel and Feeld.

The government expects the code will enable Australians to make better informed choices about which dating apps are best equipped to provide a safe dating experience.

The government has also warned the online dating industry that it will legislate if the operators fail to keep Australians safe on their platforms.



NEW JERSEY OFFSHORE WIND FARM CLEARS BIG FEDERAL HURDLE AMID ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

The federal government gave a key approval this week to an offshore wind farm in New Jersey, even as residents in the town where its power cable would come ashore worry it could go through underground toxic waste that's still being cleaned up.

The U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management approved Atlantic Shores' plan to construct and operate an energy facility, a major milestone in moving the project forward. The project still









requires a review by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and several state permits, the company said.

The project, consisting of two phases, would be built between Atlantic City and Long Beach Island in southern New Jersey. It would generate 2,800 megawatts from 197 turbines, enough to power 1 million homes.

“Atlantic Shores is thrilled to receive approval to build our first two projects and deliver sufficient clean power to serve one third of New Jersey households,” said Joris Veldhoven, the company’s CEO. “Securing these critical approvals enables New Jersey’s first offshore wind project to start construction next year, and represents meaningful progress in New Jersey achieving 100% clean energy by 2035.”

The federal government says the project would be about 8.7 miles (14 kilometers) from the shore at its closest point. But the company has previously said that it will not build right up to that line and that the closest turbines will be at least 12.8 miles (20 kilometers) from shore.

Atlantic Shores is a joint partnership between Shell New Energies US LLC and EDF-RE Offshore Development LLC.

“Responsibly developed offshore wind is a critical component in a clean energy future, which will fight climate change, create union jobs and improve the air quality in overburdened communities,” said Ed Potosnak, executive director of the New Jersey League of Conservation Voters.

Offshore wind foes, who are particularly vocal and well-organized in New Jersey, vowed to try to keep the project from ever being built.

"We understand this development would be devastating for the marine and coastal habitats, and it would destroy the Jersey Shore as we know it," said Robin Shaffer, president of Protect Our Coast NJ.

BOEM said the power cables for the project will "potentially" come ashore in Atlantic City and Sea Girt.

That possibility has angered residents of Sea Girt, a wealthy Jersey Shore community about seven miles (11 kilometers) south of Asbury Park, due to concerns that its route would run through two federal Superfund sites where underground toxic contamination from former dry cleaning operations is still being cleaned up.

The route proposed through Sea Girt would likely take the cable through contamination at the former White Swan and Sun cleaners sites in neighboring Wall Township where chemicals leached into the soil and contaminated underground water in a wide area including Sea Girt. More than 300 dump truck loads of contaminated soil have been removed from the site, and a ground water treatment system has been designed that will operate for at least 30 years.

Kimberly Paterson is a leader of a Sea Girt-based residents group opposing the cable landing project; it takes no position on offshore wind energy itself.

"It's just common sense that when you have a Superfund site still in remediation and the ground water is still contaminated, you shouldn't be messing around there," she said. "When you start digging, you stand a very good chance of disturbing this plume of





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contamination. It seems to be all risk and no reward.”

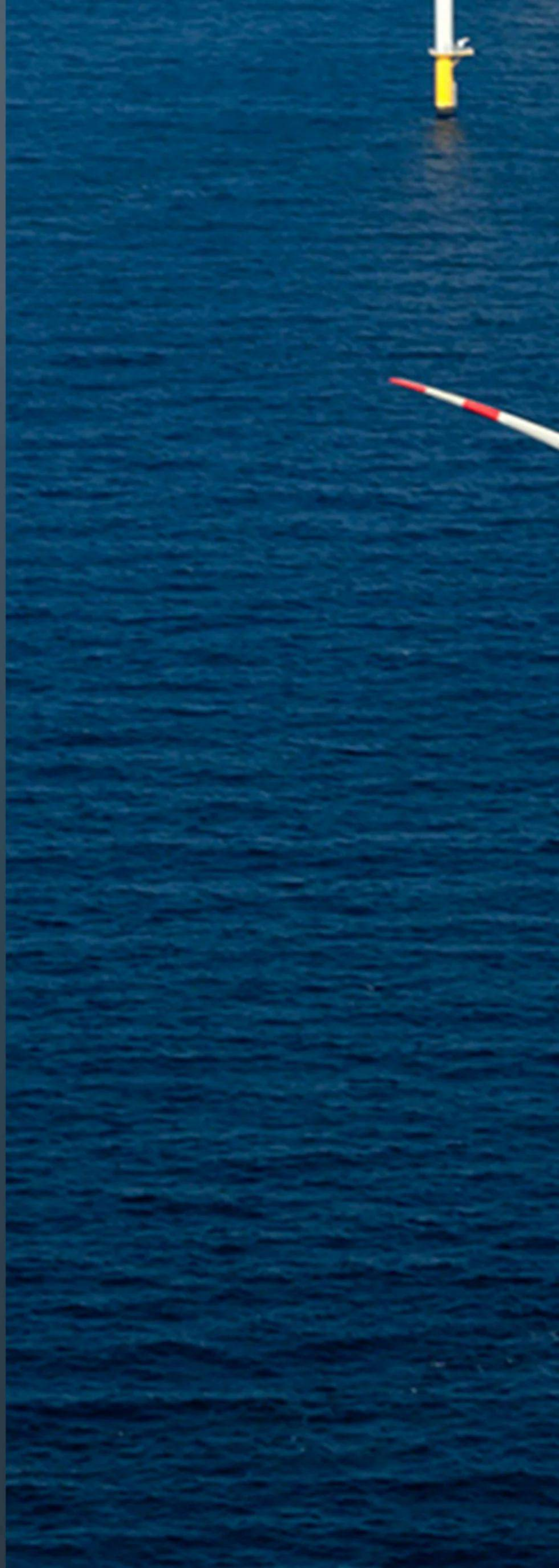
Elias Rodriguez, a spokesman for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which administers the federal Superfund cleanup projects, said the agency is aware of concerns about the sites.

“We understand that the public believes there could be risks associated with running electric cables through areas with site-related groundwater contamination,” he said. “EPA will work with the (New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection) to make sure relevant officials are aware of these concerns. EPA will continue to take appropriate steps to ensure that the ongoing cleanup is protected.”

The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities does not plan to authorize a specific route for the cable to connect with the power grid about 9 miles west in Howell Township. It said that decision is for the company eventually chosen to build the project, in consultation with local governments.

But New Jersey passed a law in 2021 stripping local governments of most control over where and how power lines from offshore wind energy projects come ashore.

“Should the site become a part of the future (cable route project), all federally-mandated site remediation measures will be followed,” the board said in a statement.





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